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Wednesday October 30 1996

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# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Maggie O'Kane on Dublin's Magdalen laundries

## Sins of the mothers

European weather

How his widow won the day

## The battle for the Marley millions

G2 pages 8/9

Society

## Welfare austerity hits Europe

G2 pages 10/11

# No apologies, no regrets

'My personal view is that corporal punishment can be a useful deterrent to bad behaviour in schools. The Prime Minister takes a different personal view'

— Gillian Shephard at the Dispatch Box yesterday



Education Secretary Gillian Shephard... her 'brave remarks' about restoring the cane were praised by rightwingers but angered John Major

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

John Carvel, Rebecca Smithers and Michael White

**J**OHN Major and his Education Secretary were publicly at odds over corporal punishment in schools last night after the Prime Minister overruled Gillian Shephard's pro-cane views — and she unapologetically stood her ground at the Commons Dispatch Box.

Coming less than a week after "choice and opportunity" in education emerged as a central theme of the last Queen's Speech programme before the election, the dispute over amendments to Mrs Shephard's new Education Bill ranked high among the self-inflicted wounds of an accident-prone government.

Conservative rightwingers are now almost certain to give the restoration of corporal punishment a high-profile — as several promised last night — knowing that it could provoke conflict with the European Court of Human Rights on an issue which was

effectively outlawed in Britain 10 years ago.

It also reopens simmering backstairs manoeuvres for the Tory leadership succession if John Major is ousted after an election defeat next spring. Some conspiracy-minded MPs and educationists saw the Education Secretary re-polishing her rightwing credentials. They pointed to Michael Howard's reported support for the pro-cane shift.

What started as a routine interview on yesterday's Radio 4 Today programme — in which Mrs Shephard virtually solicited amendments for "a very useful deterrent" — rapidly led to an emergency phone call from Mr Major to the Surrey school she was visiting.

When reporters were told the pair had spoken to steady the wobbling cabinet line Downing Street toned down the exchange. Officials stressed that the Government remained anti-corporal punishment — and Mrs Shephard confirmed she would not be voting for her "different personal view".

With Mrs Shephard's Education Bill due to be published this morning — expanded secondary selection, disciplinary powers and variety — the wobble offered the Opposition an opportunity to muddy the political waters and make the Government look even more divided.

Mr Major was taunted by Tony Blair and other MPs at Question Time and when the Queen's Speech debate resumed Mrs Shephard was forced to concede that she had been overruled by the Prime Minister.

When she later outlined the main measures in the bill she was harried to explain by MPs on both sides.

She said: "My own personal view is that corporal punishment can be a useful deterrent... the Prime Minister takes a different personal view but the Government position is that we are not putting the restoration of corporal punishment into the bill."

But Mrs Shephard's enthusiasm for corporal punishment was clearly shared by some backbenchers who cheered loudly as the staunch rightwinger, Tony Marlow, praised her "brave remarks" and said he would be tabling

an amendment today to try to force caning through.

The shadow education secretary, David Blunkett, claimed the day's events showed "a Government that has not got the first idea of what it is doing morning, noon and night".

Labour caused further embarrassment for Mrs Shephard last night by publishing a letter she received from the grant-maintained schools attacking her plans for making schools more selective as "a mish mash".

John Edwards, secretary of the Association of Grant Maintained and Aided Schools, said her selection plans were "extremely divisive" for their schools, which would "resent changes in the admission arrangements to neighbouring schools that would distort the current level playing field."

There was also concern about two schools brought close to collapse by problems of indiscipline. In Halifax, Yorkshire, inspectors moved into the Ridings school and in Worsnop, Nottinghamshire, governors met to discuss the closure of a primary school.

On other pages

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## Anatomy of a dispute

9.10am: Gillian Shephard appears on Radio 4's Today to explain her new Education Bill.

9.17am: John Humphreys has spotted the Sun's "exclusive" in which she and the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, are reported to want to "bring back the cane to deal with classroom thugs". She all but invites Tory MPs and teachers to demand restoration but fails to say it is not government policy.

9am: Downing Street staff hear the story on BBC News and realise it is "capable of being misinterpreted". They alert Mr Major at his pre-Question Time briefing.

9.30am: After the briefing, Downing St officials ring the Department for Education to talk to Mrs Shephard. The department contacts her on a platform at Waterloo via her mobile phone. They agree she should ring from the sixth form centre at Heathside school, Weybridge, which she is to open.

10.20am: Mrs Shephard is called, mid-speech, to take Mr Major's 15-minute call in the head's study. "Could you assure us you're still Education Secretary?" quips the mayor, Hugh Ashton, when she returns. "Yes, and you'll be glad to know the Prime Minister is still the Prime Minister," she replies.

11am: Downing Street officials inform reporters of the exchange at the morning briefing for lobby correspondents. It prompts "Major Gives Gillian Six of the Best" headlines in papers.

3.15pm: Major taunted by

Tony Blair and Labour MPs at Question Time.

4pm: Downing Street tones down remarks to reporters. The Prime Minister and Mrs Shephard are merely getting the agreed government line straight. "No question of the PM rebuking or rapping the knuckles of Mrs Shephard. That is nonsense." The two are old friends.

4.20pm: Mrs Shephard makes no attempt to hide her dispute with Mr Major. She has her personal view. He has his. But "we are not putting the restoration of corporal punishment into the bill".

## City boss trades places

**H**IS IS one of the City's top performers, earning £220,000 a year as finance director of a £500 million multinational company. No longer.

Cynics regard the Square Mile as a citadel of greed, but John Martyn, aged 53, is leaving Dalgety, the pet food group, to do voluntary work on behalf of the homeless.

Mr Martyn will spend more time working at the Gatehouse drop-in centre in Oxford, where he and his wife Frances, already help.

He also plans to devote more time to the Warnford and Littlemore hospitals, which care for the mentally ill in the Oxford and Banbury areas.

He said: "My wife and I



John Martyn: helping needy

have been interested for a long time in helping people who are less well off than we are, and although it might seem unusual, I wouldn't want it to be seen as making an amazing step — lots of people do it."

Encouraged by Mrs Mar-

## Race is to the Swift as favourite's 'wonderful book' takes Booker

**D**AN GLESTER Arts Correspondent

**G**RAHAM Swift's novel Last Orders opens with the words: "It ain't like your regular sort of day." Yesterday certainly was not a regular sort of day for Swift as he won the £20,000 Booker Prize at a ceremony at the Guildhall.

It was, however, the sort of day the bookmakers had predicted. Last Orders led the betting from the announcement of the shortlist, being even favourite when the book closed yesterday.

Last year the bookmakers were caught out when Pat Barker's The Ghost Road won, beating the favourite, The Moor's Last Sigh by Salman Rushdie.

## Kurd woman dies in third suicide bomb

**C**HRIS NUTTALL in Ankara

**A**SUICIDE bomber blew herself up as Kurdish separatists disrupted Republic Day celebrations in Turkey yesterday. It was the third suicide bombing, all involving women, in recent months, representing a new tactic by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

The PKK did not immediately claim responsibility for the blast but the authorities blamed the outlawed organisation. The woman had been picked up for questioning in Sivas in central Turkey. She exploded the bomb as the car approached the police station. Three police officers and a passer-by were killed, and nine people injured.

## Inside Britain

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## World News

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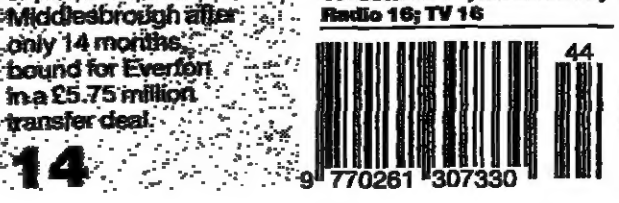
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... CRISIS IN...  
CENTRAL AFRICA

## URGENT APPEAL FOR AID

What has been described as a 'tragic human river' 25 kilometers long is desperately fleeing the fighting in Zaire. Such is their panic that thousands of refugees are even returning to Rwanda, the country they fled only two years ago.

Innocent men, women and children who thought they had escaped the bloodshed now face misery again. With fear and desperation comes disease and starvation. Food supplies will last just five more days. The Red Cross urgently needs your help to provide vital food, clean water and medical aid.

Phone now to give your donation or complete the coupon below. Please give as much as you can, just £25 will help provide an entire family with food and water. Your money can help the Red Cross save lives.

Please call now with your credit card donation.

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Sketch

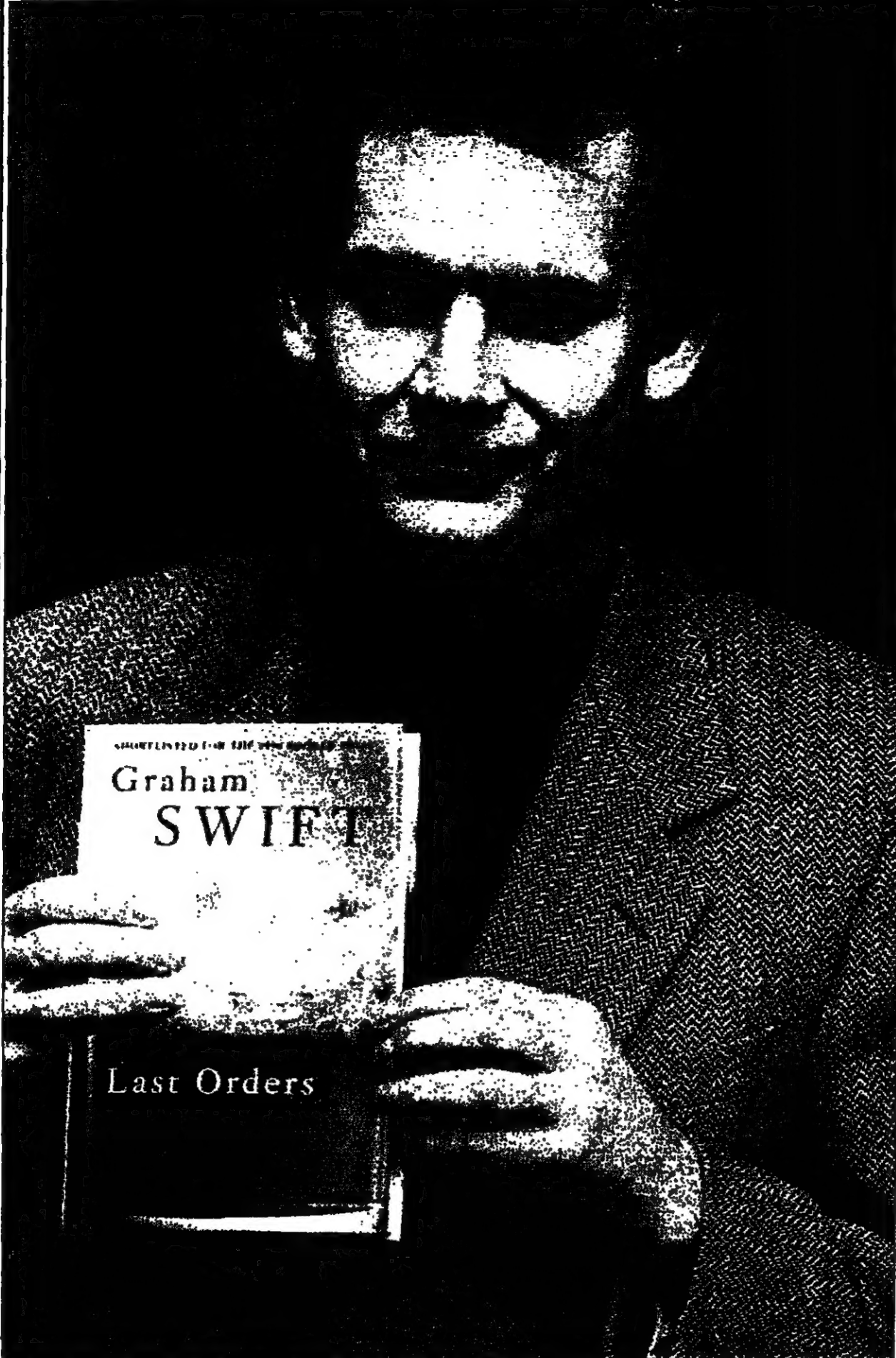
First crawler looks for a new Korea



Simon Hoggart

PRIME MINISTER'S Questions were only two minutes old when we heard the First Crawler of the Fall. It's that melancholy, autumnal time of year, season of mists and mellow greatness, when MPs seize their final chance to bumfuck to the boss before the nights close in. Mr Andrew Rowe (C, Mid Kent) rose, apropos of nothing, to ask Mr Major about his "visit to Korea, one of the most successful, if not the most successful, visit abroad by a Prime Minister in our recent history... leading to billions of pounds of investment..."

programme saying she will bring back corporal punishment in schools - only to be rasped up to sit next to them by the Prime Minister, apparently on his mobile phone from the train! Don't you hate those people who use mobile phones on trains? Usually all they want to do is boast that they are on a train. "Justin, can you hear me Justin? I'm on a train. Yes, Clapham Junction. Get back to you soon." Blip blip beeeep! "Hello, Jeremy you old bastard! Yes, I'm on a train..." One way of shutting these people up is to sit next to them and, conspicuously craning your neck, take a careful note of what they are saying. If they complain it's a private conversation, say: "Oh, I'm sorry. You were shouting so loudly, I assumed you wanted us to hear everything." But the Prime Minister is a new peril. "Gillian? Yes, I'm on a train. Look, if we hear any more of this corporal punishment nonsense I'll have you thrashed to within an inch of your... damn, it's cut out..." Whatever really happened, Mr Major was outraged. "Every single word is a twisted distortion," he announced. "In Opposition you can spend your life on public relations stunts. In Government we have to deal with reality." But then Tories never go in for PR stunts. Ever. Except, perhaps, for the Satanic eyes. Oh, and the cans of beans. And the Labour Pycroft board game. Apart from that, never. Oh, except the "Yes it hurt" poster. And... Mr Eddie O'Hara (Lab, Knowsley S) rose to declare "Christmas is coming!" in catalogues, he said, you could find the "Terminator Terror Sword" - double-handed, 36 inches, absolutely awesome" and "Commando knife complete with blood channel. Ideal Christmas present."



Booker winner Graham Swift and his "wonderful book that will give pleasure to thousands" PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ANGLIS

Review

Question time for fraudster's friends

Roy Greenslade

Maxwell - The Downfall Inside Story Special, BBC1

WHO says television is the fastest medium? It has taken five years since Robert Maxwell's death, four years since his sons were charged, nine months since they were acquitted and six weeks since all other charges were dropped before we could see this fascinating, forensic account. BBC1's Inside Story Special: Maxwell - The Downfall is riveting. Not because the story was shockingly new, but because it was being screened at last. Here was a visual record of corruption, a filmed record of the great and the good paying court to a fraudster. The hairdresser captured his vanity in a sentence. The butler explained his extravagant greed. The chauffeur gave us an unforgettable portrait of a man on the edge of the abyss. We watched senior politicians smiling while his corruptible con-man as they enjoyed his sumptuous 65th birthday feast: the oleaginous Jonathan Aitken, the faintly embarrassed Malcolm Rifkind and the sipping Harold Wilson. Then came confirmation of Maxwell's City status with that flattering speech from that smoothest of Square Mile fixers, Sir Michael Richardson. Among these wonderful moments there was none better than the footage of Maxwell dictating his own publicity material while his then chief of staff, Peter Jay, hovers in attendance, the voice-over intoning: "Unquestioning executives helped to mould Maxwell's image." For those in the know this was a stunning settling of accounts. When Tom Bower was writing his biography of Maxwell in the 1980s Jay harried him assiduously on his master's behalf. Now Bower was giving BBC viewers a chance to see Jay, the BBC's Economics Editor, in a new light. Truly, the BBC is a broad church. One of Bower's greatest successes was in obtaining unseen film of Maxwell at the Jerusalem Holocaust memorial towards the end of his life. As Maxwell weeps while talk-

Booker Prize goes to the favourite

Booker Prize winner

continued from page 1 Orders is his sixth novel. Two Booker bridesmaids were again left at the altar. Beryl Bainbridge, who has been nominated for the Booker three times, lost out, as did Canadian author Margaret Atwood, who has been shortlisted twice. The other shortlisted authors were Shena Mackay for 'The Orchard on Fire', Rohinton Mistry for 'A Fine Balance', and Seamus Deane for 'Reading in The Dark'. The announcement of the winner was almost overshadowed by the sort of publicity on which the Booker thrives. A bad-tempered outburst from author V.S. Naipaul, a previous winner, was followed by an attack on critics by the chair of the judges, Carmen Callil. Mr Naipaul, who won the prize in 1971, said: "The Booker is murder. Absolutely nothing would be lost if it withered away and died. It is useless. I have no regard for it at all." In the past, Mr Naipaul has argued that the novel as genre is dead. Martyn Goff, administrator of the Booker Prize, responded, saying: "I find it extraordinary that someone who has won the Booker Prize himself - and was very pleased with winning it - should now turn and rubbish it."

Booker Prize winner Graham Swift. Bio: Boreas Cottford, 1949; father a civil servant. Education: Dulwich College, Cambridge and York universities. Abandoned an academic career to become a writer (PhD thesis, 'The City in Nineteenth-Century English Literature' later substituting by teaching). Early accolades: his first two novels, 'The Sweet Shop Owner' (1980) and 'Shutout' (1981), put him on Granta magazine's groundbreaking 1983 list of the 20 Best Young British Novelists, along with Martin Amis and Julian Barnes. Defining moments: the publication of 'Waterland', also in 1983. A family saga, it won the Guardian Fiction prize, had him as Booker favourite that year and was made into a film starring Jeremy Irons. Fall from grace: the two books that followed 'Waterland', 'Out of This World' (1987) and 'Ever After' (1992), are constantly cited as failures by critics. Themes: death; impossibility of escaping the past; the family; Darwinism. Reputation: technical proficiency (particularly at creating 'voices', as in 'Last Orders'); not likely to suffer fools gladly; dislikes the business of promoting his books. Extract: 'Lenny says, "Don't encourage him, Vic." Vic says, "A hearse is different, everyone makes way for a hearse." Lenny says, "You mean they don't make way for Vincey here?" Vic sits in the front beside Vince, holding the box on his knees. I can see it's how it should be, Vic being the professional, but it doesn't seem right he should hold it all the time. Maybe he should take it in turns. Vince looks across at Vic. He says, smiling, "Gusman's holiday, eh, Vic?" Vince is wearing a white shirt with silver cufflinks, and pony after-shave. His hair is all slicked back. It's a brand new suit. We head on past the gas works, Ilkerton Road, under the railway bridge, Prince of Windsor. The sun comes out from behind the tower blocks, bright in our faces, and Vince pulls out a pair of chunky sun-glasses from under the dashboard. Lenny starts singing, slyly, through his teeth, "Blue Bayouo..." And we all feel it, what with the sunshine and the beer inside us and the journey ahead: like it's something Jack has done for us, so as to make us feel special, so as to give us a treat. Like he's off on a jaunt, a spree, and the world looks good. It looks like it's just there for us. From Last Orders (Picador, £15.95)

advised to start negotiating a deal for his next novel now. Ms Callil, the founder of Virago Press and chair of this year's judging panel, attacked critics for praising the American novel at the expense of English fiction. "A clique of critics have hovered in the shade of American fiction admiring their pistol-packing approach," she said. "It means that great English writers have been overlooked." "They are in a no-win situation. There has been this obsessive designation going on. These critics believe that because English novelists are no longer the greatest in the world, they must be the worst." Ms Callil said that critics should read more. "I don't think they read enough and I don't think they've read half the books nominated this year." Ms Callil had to read almost 150 books between April and October to judge this year's Booker. The other judges were Jonathan Coe, Ian Jack, A.L. Kennedy and A.N. Wilson.

Howard 'to blame' as swindler goes free

Extradition failure after row over 'chief engineer' of BCCI scandal

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

THE "chief engineer" of one of the biggest banking scandals in British criminal history is to be released from Brixton prison today after serving only four years inside because of an international row over his extradition. A High Court judge yesterday rebuked the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, for his role in the case, saying he had taken a personal interest only two months ago. "Had he done so 12 months ago matters might have been different," said Lord Justice Rose. Syed Ziauddin Ali Akbar, aged 52, was jailed at the Old Bailey for six years for his role in the Bank of Commerce and Credit International fraud. The bank was shut down in July 1991 by worldwide regulatory action after investigators discovered a fraud worth up to \$20 billion dollars (£12.5 billion). Akbar, who lived in Golders Green, north London, was immediately arrested on his release in September 1988 after serving three years of his six-year sentence because the US authorities had started extradition proceedings against him. They wanted him to face trial on new blackmail charges of accepting a \$15 million dollar (\$25 million) bribe from BCCI as "his price for not disclosing to a US senator details of corruption." Akbar has since spent 14 months in custody while an international argument involving Britain, France and America has raged over whether the charges were in order for him to be sent to the US. "The time has come to say enough is enough. He is discharged from custody forthwith," said Lord Justice Rose

yesterday. He added that he was "wholly unpersuaded" that the Home Office had shown why he should not be freed under legislation which sets a two month limit on the time spent in custody awaiting extradition. Lord Justice Rose said the Home Office did nothing for seven months despite the seriousness of the case. "During the last two months the Home Secretary has shown a personal interest in this case. Had he done so 12 months ago matters might have been different." The problems facing the Home Secretary began when Akbar fled to France on being paroled in 1991 during a separate 18 month sentence for drug trafficking. Britain and America applied for his extradition on separate charges. Britain wanted him for the BCCI false accounting charges while the US wanted him on money laundering allegations. The French sent him back to Britain to stand trial at the Old Bailey and the original American charges were dropped under the "double jeopardy" rule. When the Americans asked Britain for extradition of Akbar for the \$15 million blackmail charges, the French insisted they still had the right to see fresh witness statements and to consider the US request before Britain made a decision. The French Ministry of Justice complained that the documents sent by the Home Office were inadequate. After lengthy delays the French said a court decision would be reached in 1996. Home Office lawyers argued that Akbar should not be freed as he was the "author of his own misfortune" once he had fled to France but Lord Justice Rose said this argument did not bear examination.

Cardinal in new attack on Blair

Erlend Clouston

CARDINAL Thomas Winning, the leader of the Scottish Catholic Church, yesterday refused to back down in his row with Tony Blair over Labour's abortion policy, urging Roman Catholics to examine their consciences before they vote in a general election. The 71-year-old cardinal made clear his continuing personal distaste for the Labour Party's parliamentary voting record on what he termed "perhaps the most serious issue of our times." However, he stopped short of calling for a mass defection of Labour's Catholic support, and even suggested the party's political pedigree compensated for its "anti-life" failings. Discussing his vote at the next election, the cardinal pointedly remarked that - if he was looking beyond the single abortion issue - "the Labour Party has done a great deal for this country." He also indicated he would be prepared to meet Mr Blair "once the dust has settled." The qualified clerical endorsement will be cherished by Labour, which yesterday further extended an olive branch first offered in a fax to Scottish Roman Catholic headquarters accepting that the cardinal's televised references to "sham" Christian values were not directed at Mr Blair personally. In a three-sentence response to the cardinal's comments yesterday, deputy shadow Scottish secretary John McFall welcomed the "assurances" that the cardi-

nal's remarks had been "directed to all political parties." Labour indicated Mr Blair had always been willing to enter dialogue with Cardinal Winning, but had not been asked for a meeting other than through the media. But Cardinal Winning, while conceding there was little to choose between the parties on the abortion issue, continued to single out Labour for criticism. He justified this because of the past decision of the Scottish executive to exclude a pro-life stall from the party's 1994 conference, the party's official policy of upholding the 1967 Abortion Act, and the likelihood of a Labour victory at the general election. "The Labour Party is likely to be the next government, so it's very important for voters to know exactly where they stand on the issue," he said. "I leave it to the Catholic people themselves to make up their own minds about how they vote, having considered in their own conscience what they have to do." The cardinal is particularly worried at the reported plans of Labour's Northern Ireland spokesman, Mo Mowlam, to extend the 1987 act to the province. In a clear allusion to Mr Blair, he said yesterday: "How can you say that you are against abortion and it is a matter of conscience, and go and vote for it?" The abortion issue has a particular sensitivity in Scotland, where Labour support among underprivileged Catholics has been coming under pressure from Scottish nationalists.

Calais shopping begins with sea... Dover/Calais over 140 crossings daily... EUROPEAN FERRIES, STENA LINE, SEAFRANCE & HOVERFERRY. Take the shortest sea route to France and cross the Channel to Calais. Critise from Dover on a luxurious car ferry or hop on a hovercraft or catamaran. With duty free shops, restaurants and entertainment all on board and departures around every half hour, what could be easier? Take in the sights, enjoy a bite, even stay for the night. You'll be spoilt for choice with the many shops, hypermarkets, hotels and restaurants. And you'll be ready to begin your journey into Europe. For a special day or a longer stay, remember, Calais begins with sea.

Vertical sidebar containing various headlines and advertisements from another page, including 'Huge and h...', 'Austria yest...', 'Surpr...', 'New gun lob...', and 'For refer...'



Mauerbach Collection auctioned



This Abraham Mignon oil painting fetched a record £300,000

Huge prices and high emotions as Nazis' plundered art goes home to rest

Austria yesterday moved to confront its murky past. Ian Traynor reports



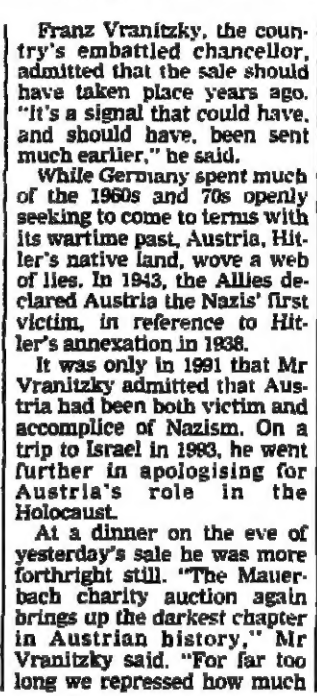
Bidders pack Vienna's Museum of Applied Arts yesterday for the charity auction of Jewish art stolen by the Nazis. Proceeds will go to aid Holocaust victims PHOTOGRAPH: RONALD ZAK

THE first charity auction of Jewish art looted by the Nazis surpassed all expectations amid poignancy and high emotion in Vienna yesterday. By lunchtime on the first of the two-day sale, Christie's catalogue prices were shredded as items fetched more than 10 times the estimate. Hundreds of dealers packed Vienna's Museum of Applied Arts for the sale of the "Mauerbach Collection" — more than 8,000 paintings, antiques and prized family possessions stolen by the Nazis from Viennese Jews during the Holocaust. The cache was hidden in a derelict monastery outside Vienna for decades while the Austrian authorities discouraged claims from Holocaust survivors or relatives of the victims. The government bowed to pressure last year and turned the collection over to Austria's small Jewish community, which brought in Christie's to organise the sale. The auction house is offering its services on a non-profit basis. Eighty-eight per cent of the proceeds will go to aid Jewish victims of the Holocaust, and 12 per cent will go to non-Jewish Austrian survivors. A London art dealer, Richard Green, shelled out almost £300,000 for an Old Master oil painting of peonies, roses and tulips by Abraham Mignon (1640-79), the highest price ever fetched by a Mignon. The Christie's catalogue valued it at about 150,000 pounds. With 150 of the 1,000-plus lots sold by lunchtime, the takings had already exceeded the Christie's total estimate of £3 million. "Prices are going sky high. Emotions are also very high," said Julia Hobsbawm who helped to organise the sale. "It's so moving. It's the first restitution art sale, and it's also the culmination of the emotions associated with it." Ronald Lauder, a former

United States ambassador to Austria who is co-chairman of the auction benefit committee, said most overseas bids were from Jews "who wanted this as a remembrance of a time that was". Israel's Yad Vashem and Tel Aviv museums, as well as many US Jewish organisations, were among the potential buyers. For Austria, the sale offered an opportunity to come clean on its past. "The historic doctrine here was always that Austria was Hitler's first victim," said Robert Liska, the vice-president of Vienna's Jewish community, who negotiated for years with the government over the loot. Franz Vranitzky, the country's embattled chancellor, admitted that the sale should have taken place years ago. "It's a signal that could have, and should have, been sent much earlier," he said. While Germany spent much of the 1960s and 70s openly seeking to come to terms with its wartime past, Austria, Hitler's native land, wove a web of lies. In 1943, the Allies declared Austria the Nazis' first victim, in reference to Hitler's annexation in 1938. It was only in 1991 that Mr Vranitzky admitted that Austria had been both victim and accomplice of Nazism. On a trip to Israel in 1983, he went further in apologise for Austria's role in the Holocaust. At a dinner on the eve of yesterday's sale he was more forthright still. "The Mauerbach charity auction again brings up the darkest chapter in Austrian history," Mr Vranitzky said. "For far too long we repressed how much

Austrians were co-responsible for what was done to millions of people of Jewish faith. "We now know that many Austrians were directly involved in the Holocaust... as commanders and supervisors in countless concentration camps, as SS members, occasionally as army soldiers, or as Nazi party members and sympathisers." Fran Lauffer, a Holocaust survivor, travelled to the auction from New York "out of nostalgia". She intended to bid on the single piece of Judaica in the collection, a painting by the 19th-century artist Ludwig Knaus called "In the Street". "It is such a mixed feeling", she said, eyes welling up. "All this that has happened to me is coming back." She looked down and found the measure of her emotions — the mismatched boots she pulled on to rush to the sale: one brown ankle-length, the other black and knee-high.

'The auction again brings up the darkest chapter in Austrian history' Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, left



YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Midland's mortgages are subject to security and status. A charge will be taken over the property and appropriate life policies. The following example illustrates monthly repayments for a typical capped-payment fixed-rate mortgage of £40,000 over 25 years with interest fixed at 7.99% until 30/11/2001. Thereafter, interest is charged at our variable rate. Estimated costs and fees are based on a valuation of purchase price of £55,000 and include an estimated valuation fee of £110 although this may vary according to the property's value. A £250 booking fee is payable when the application is agreed in principle. Booking fee is refunded for first-time buyers only on completion. In addition to figures quoted below, premiums for the required mortgage protection policy are payable: £3 net monthly payments of £28.51 followed by 237 net monthly repayments of £34.56. Total gross amount payable £21,597.49 (APR 7.8%). All APRs variable. For a written quotation, call 0800 494 999. All calls are recorded and monitored. Midland Bank plc is regulated by the Financial Services Authority and only advertises on its own life assurance, pensions and unit trusts. Denise and Geoff are fictional characters but their story is based on real Midland customers. B1/06.

Surprise QC for Hamilton inquiry

'Non-Establishment figure' to provide key legal advice

PARLIAMENT yesterday appointed a blues guitar-playing QC, who has represented Amnesty International and road protesters, to provide the key legal advice to the controversial "cash for questions" inquiry. Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, surprised the legal establishment yesterday by asking Nigel Fleming, to assist him in sorting out the high profile inquiry into former minister Neil Hamilton, and lobbyist Ian Greer and their involvement with Mohamed Al Fayed, the Harrods owner. Legal colleagues of Mr Fleming said he was a "non-establishment figure". Details of Mr Fleming's appointment were published yesterday in a special report from the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee. David Doig, as former registrar of members' interests, is to assist Sir Gordon in his inquiries. The report gives no timetable or scope for the inquiry, which is expected to cover more than 30 MPs, including those who received help from Ian Greer towards their election fighting fund. The report says: "The commissioner is currently seeking to establish the precise allegations in each case and to assemble the supporting evidence he requires. When he has done so, the commissioner will inform the members concerned of the allegations against them. The commissioner will then determine whether there is a prima facie evidence of case to answer and, where possible, reach conclusions on whether the allegations have been substantiated." The report warns that anyone who tries to mislead Sir Gordon will be seen to be in contempt of the House of Commons. Sir Gordon's inquiry will be held in private, unless MPs decide to hold their own inquiry into his report after he has sent it to the committee. Mr Fleming, a 50-year-old vicar's son, is the son of the singer London Wainwright and attends life classes at art school. He also plays tennis and cricket in Notting Hill, west London, and reads the Guardian and the Times. Mr Fleming went to a Lincolnshire grammar school and was educated at Kingston Polytechnic and University College, London. He has represented charities and protest

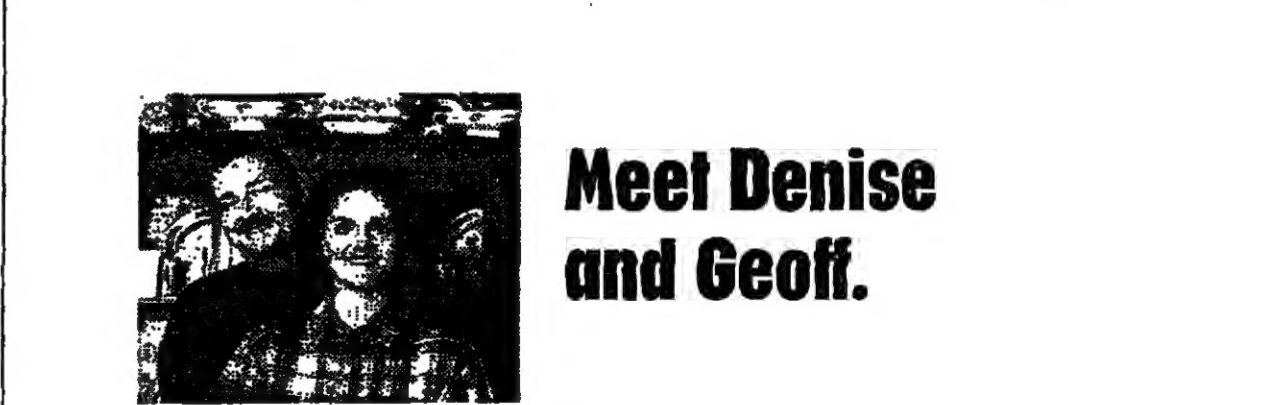
groups as well as being the QC who unsuccessfully represented Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, when he first tried to ban asylum seekers receiving benefits. He has also represented the World Development Movement — in its fight to force the Government to review its overseas aid policy in the wake of the illegal aid to build the Pergau dam in Malaysia — and protesters and ecologists who saved the mediaeval Oxleas Wood in Shooters Hill, south London, from a road scheme. Yesterday he finished putting the case for a judicial review against the Radio Authority which sought to ban them advertising on commercial radio. Yesterday his office said: "We cannot comment on his role but he does admit to playing the blues guitar badly and his painting is even worse."

New gun lobby group claims 10,000 members in 10 days

ANew gun lobby group, which has threatened to set up a new political party to oppose plans for a ban on handguns, says it has recruited nearly 10,000 members in its first 10 days. The Sportsman's Association was founded by angry gunsmiths and shooters in response to Government proposals to make most handguns illegal. Organisers say they are hoping to sign up 1 million disaffected sportsmen to create a pressure group strong enough to force ministers to back down. But anti-gun campaigners dismissed the threat and said the weight of public opinion will ensure the Government does not sway from its position. The Sportsman's Association claims banning handguns will wipe out 2,000 jobs, cost the taxpayer more than £1 billion pounds in compensation, and jeopardise Britain's chances of hosting the Commonwealth Games. It argues the ban will not make the streets safer, only destroy legitimate livelihoods and hobbies. The chairman, Albie Fox, said the group was set up to force its message home to the Government. Recruits so far include

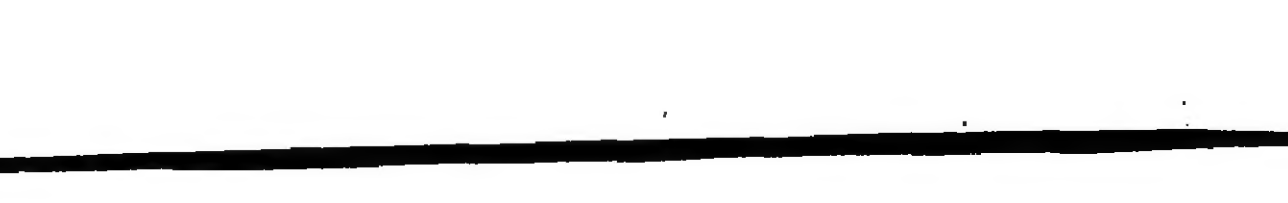
Olympic shooter Sarah Cooper, aged 47, as well as a cross section of shooters and gunsmiths whose sport is being virtually ended as a result of the decision to ban all handguns bigger than the .22 calibre weapons used for Olympic events. The ban, forced through by the Government against pressure from the Opposition parties for a total ban on handguns, came after the report into the Dunblane massacre and the way that the killer, Thomas Hamilton, had easy and little-controlled access to weapons and ammunition. Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats have pledged to extend the ban to 22 guns if they gain power in the general election. Ann Pearson, an organiser of the Dunblane Snowdrop Petition signed by 750,000 people calling for a ban on all handguns, said she did not believe the association would ever build enough momentum to persuade the Government to change its mind. "The Government has stated its position which is close to ours and I don't see that it can back down from that without a public backlash," she said. "In fact, I'm surprised they (the association) haven't managed to get more members. There are 57,000 handgun owners in this country."

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Meet Denise and Geoff. Denise and Geoff have just fixed their mortgage at 7.99% (7.8% APR) until the year 2001.

They called 0800 494 999 for a quote. Denise and Geoff are starting a family, so they'd like to take as few risks with their finances as possible. Interest rates are low at the moment, but Denise and Geoff — particularly Denise — aren't counting on them staying that way. So they've fixed their repayments until the year 2001 with a mortgage from Midland Bank. You can do the same by calling 0800 494 999 between 9am and 8pm from Monday to Friday or by meeting a mortgage specialist at any Midland branch.



For the others work began at 6.30. They ate in the refectory in silence as Sister Breige read passages from the Catholic Standard and were forbidden to speak of their lost babies. Maggie O'Kane on the women time forgot

G2 Front

ward 'to ame' as windler res free... tion failure after rown engineer of BCCI... rdinal in... ack on B...



# Joint attempt to avoid ambush of constitution bills Lib-Lab body set up to speed reforms

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

ABOUT the Liberal Democrats yesterday embarked on the biggest exercise in cross-party co-operation for 20 years by setting up a high-powered body to discuss a joint approach to constitutional reform.

Robin Cook, the shadow foreign secretary, and Robert MacLennan, the Liberal Democrat constitutional spokesman, announced at a joint Commons press conference the formation of the body, which has the blessing of the two leaders, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown.

Mr Cook and Mr MacLennan strenuously denied the move was intended to lead to a pact, although the Tories swiftly claimed that it was. The Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, said: "The Lib-Lab pact which laid Britain low in the 1970s is back. I am pleased that the Liberal Democrats are now admitting what we have always said: Vote Liberal, get Labour."

for England, a Bill of Rights, Freedom of Information and reform of the Lords, would be ambushed in the Commons and Lords. High on the agenda of the new cross-party body will be discussion of an overhaul of Commons procedures to smooth the passage of bills.

Until this year there has been little co-operation between the two parties at UK level since the discredited Lib-Lab pact of the 1970s. But last February there was co-operation between front benches on the Scott arms-to-Iraq report and this month between the two leaders over the Neil Hamilton/Tan Greer cash-for-questions affair. Both party conferences were accompanied by speculation that Lib Dems might be invited to join a Labour cabinet.

Mr Cook said yesterday: "This is not a pact. Nor is this the start of some grand new realignment of British politics. It's a very obvious practical step being taken by

two parties within a specific field of politics where we happen to have a lot of shared objectives, to work out how, in down-to-earth terms, we can best take forward these objectives in a new parliament."

Mr Cook and Mr MacLennan have had informal talks over the last few months. Mr Cook said that had moved up a gear with a formal meeting yesterday morning.

Its importance was demonstrated by the seniority of the politicians involved. On the Labour side, apart from Mr Cook, were the Labour chief whip, Donald Dewar, the shadow leader of the House, Ann Taylor, and the shadow Scottish Secretary, George Robertson. On the Liberal Democrat side were the Scottish spokesman Jim Wallace, the campaigns co-ordinator Nick Harvey, and Lord McNally.

Mr MacLennan, who has experience as a junior minister in the Labour government of 1974-79 of the problems faced by the Scottish devolution bill, said: "Constitutional reform has in the past proved difficult to secure, even by governments with substantial majorities. Even with strong commitment, it is sensible to see if there is enough common ground to have a common approach."

**'This is not a pact. It's a practical step within a specific field of politics'**

# Miners in health test case

Record compensation battle launched against British Coal

Seumas Milne Labour Editor

SIX former miners and two pitmen's widows yesterday launched a test case against British Coal for emphysema and bronchitis compensation in an action which could become the biggest health compensation claim ever to come to court.

The Government, owner of what has become a shell company since coal privatisation, faces a potential bill running into tens of millions of pounds if the claim is successful.

The claimants, backed by the pit deputies' union, Nacods, and the National Union

of Mineworkers, are taking legal action in a bid to compel British Coal to pay compensation for a wider group of dust-induced respiratory diseases.

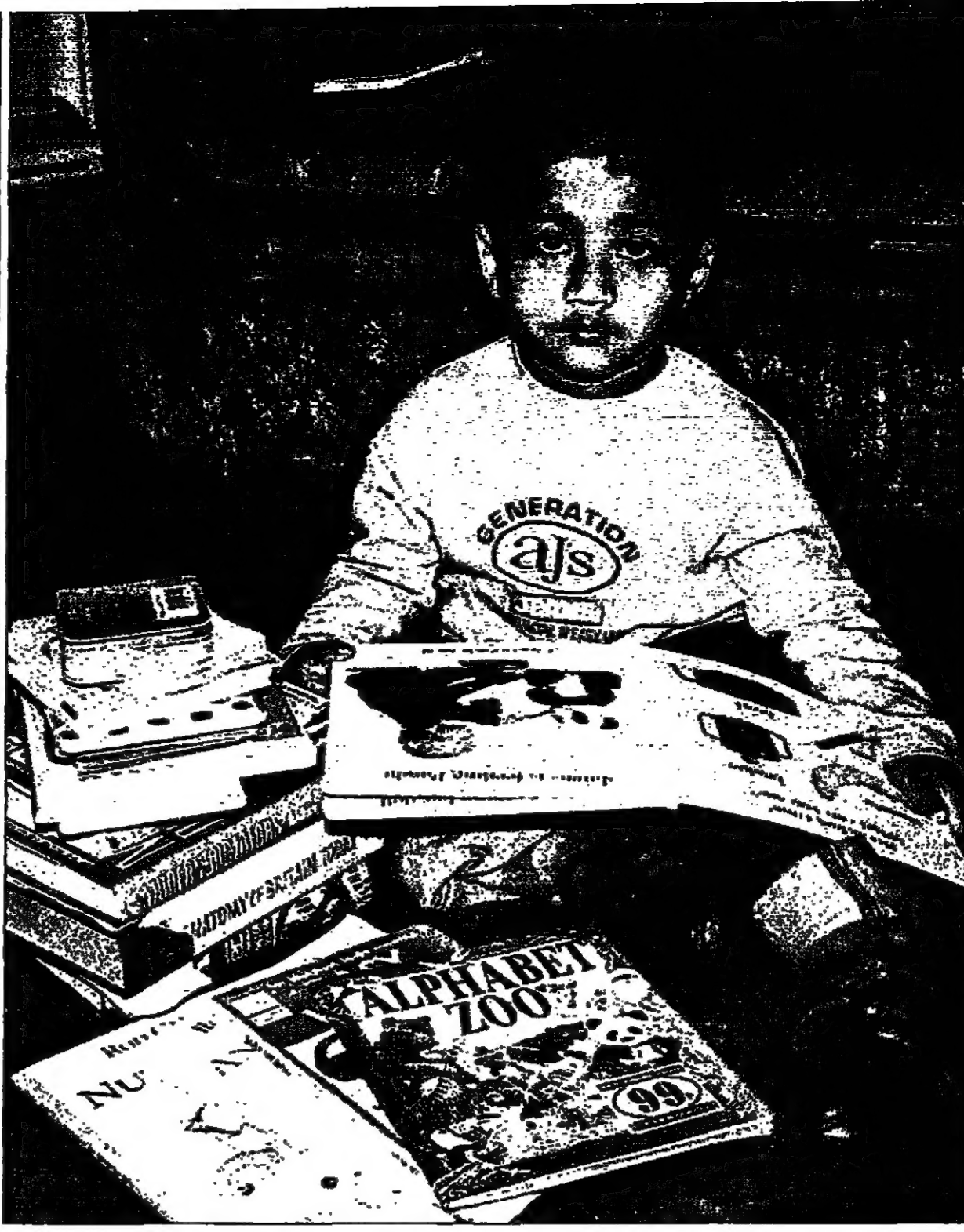
Mine owners are at present only obliged to compensate for pneumoconiosis. Up to 50,000 former miners suffering from emphysema and bronchitis stand to benefit if the High Court finds against British Coal.

Opening the hearing at Cardiff High Court yesterday, Stuart Brown QC, for the examiners and deputies, said the key question was whether the man had been exposed to excessive levels of dust and fumes, and if so, whether that had caused their chronic conditions.

Evidence would be presented that the increase in mechanisation underground since nationalisation in 1947 had led to sharply higher dust levels and dust sampling equipment was inaccurate, particularly in the early post-war years. "The defendants put productivity before dust suppression," Mr Brown said.

The case is expected to last until Easter next year, moving from Cardiff to Sheffield and then to London to hear evidence from ex-miners and technical and medical experts.

British Coal already faces potentially huge compensation bills after the NUM won a High Court victory in January over its failure to take action to deal with the industrial disease of Vibration White Finger — a condition caused by long-term use of vibrating machinery.



Boy wonder... Raheed Kahndaker memorises books and can say the alphabet in three languages. PHOTOGRAPH: DEREK COX

# Boy, 2 set to join Mensa

Normal Ahmed

A BOY of two is set to become the youngest member of Mensa after evidence that he can recite the alphabet in three languages, memorise whole books and name the make of every car he sees.

Mensa has advised the parents of Raheed Kahndaker, who has only been at nursery for eight weeks, to send him to an independent psychologist to test his IQ as he is too young to take the usual tests.

"He is an extraordinary little boy. He did walk and talk early, but we didn't think much of it," said his father, Tasha.

"But in the last few months he has started to remember everything he sees. He memorises the make and model of cars whenever we drive somewhere. If I read him a book he has memorised the whole thing in about three days. He can count and we are now teaching him to read."

Mr Kahndaker taught his son the alphabet in English, Arabic and Bengali. "He knows them all perfectly now," he said.

Other child geniuses include four-year-old Jessica Hardy, from Rotherham, who speaks English, French and Spanish. Charlotte Coleman, also aged four, from South Glamorgan, can speak German too.

"Children of this age cannot be tested in the usual way, but if an independent psychologist says Raheed has an IQ of more than 148 or is in the top one to two per cent of the population, we would accept him," said a Mensa spokeswoman.

# Ex-UUV chief shot dead

David Sharrock Ireland Correspondent

A SENIOR loyalist paramilitary figure shot dead in Belfast yesterday had been "stood down" by his organisation less than a week ago, it was disclosed yesterday.

Thomas Stewart, 32, a married man with two children, was ambushed by a number of armed and masked men near his home in Ballysillan, in the north of the city, at about 2 am.

It is understood that until last week he was the Ulster Volunteer Force commander for north Belfast. Another man, an associate of Mr Stewart, was also removed from his post at a "court of inquiry".

The inquiry followed a series of robberies, the latest of which netted £20,000 from Ballysillan post office. Police and loyalist sources yesterday said that Mr Stewart's murder had nothing to do with the UVF but might have been linked to "criminal elements".

If it was proved that the UVF was behind it, the breach of the loyalist ceasefire would result in the expulsion of the Progressive Unionist Party, which has close links with the UVF, from multi-party talks at Stormont.

# Mystery protein may be key to rheumatoid arthritis cure

Tim Radford Science Editor

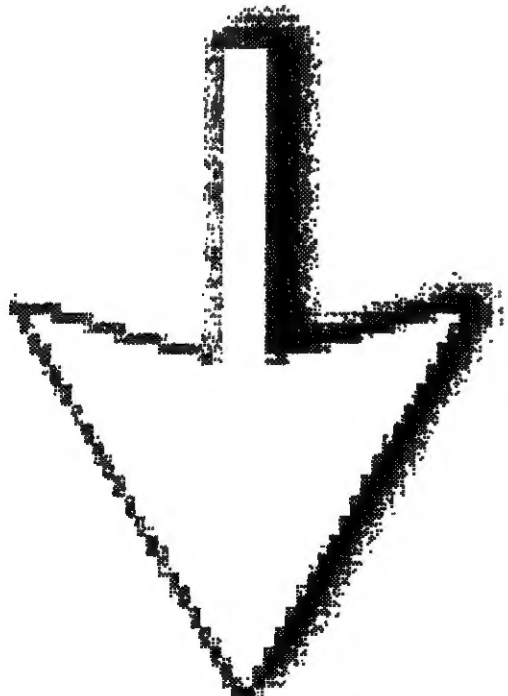
SCIENTISTS believe they have found the cell machinery that might "switch off" rheumatoid arthritis and could lead to a new treatment for the condition afflicting 750,000 Britons.

The research, published in Nature Medicine today, focuses on what white blood cells — agents of the immune system — actually do.

Roderick Flower and colleagues at the Sir William Harvey Research Institute in London discovered a protein called lipocortin-1, and have for years been trying to unravel its purpose.

"We knew it had anti-inflammatory properties. We didn't quite understand how all the pieces fitted together," Prof Flower said. The white cells, or neutrophils, move into the inflamed area and stick to the walls of blood vessels. They then wait for a biological signal to proceed, by slipping through the blood vessel wall and into the damaged tissue. The neutrophils are agents in search of germs. Unless they get a "hold-fire" signal from lipocortin-1, they quite literally bust up the joint anyway.

## WHERE IS THE PRICE OF COMPAQ COMPUTERS GOING UNTIL 31st DECEMBER?



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just £104 on a £40,000 mortgage, as shown in the example below. So get moving first time buyers, call TSB PhoneBank free on the number below to find out how much you can borrow, or to arrange an appointment.

CALL FREE Quoting ref GUD1 0500 758 000

Mortgage Quotation Line

TSB We want you to say YES

\*Typical example based on an endowment mortgage of £40,000 on a property valued at £80,000 repayable after 25 years (100 monthly payments) to finance a home purchase for a couple (single female aged 27 and female aged 26 years). Monthly interest payments are £103.25 for the first year at a variable rate of 2.49% which includes a discount of 0.5% on TSB's APR and TAP. Includes typical legal fees, £141. The customer will receive a £500 cash payment on completion. Example assumes TSB Property Plus (TAP) £106,000 initial mortgage term 1 year and 1 month respectively and a TSB Homebuyers Policy term been taken and assigned and tax relief on £30,000. For mortgages of over £15,000 there is a daily redemption charge equal to the grossed up discount given on any amount repaid in the first five years (the allowance given for MARS). Assignment/Assignment of a suitable life policy may be required by the bank as security. The value of any cash in a one-linked endowment or pension plan can go down as well as up and the cash value of your plan is not guaranteed. TSB unit trust and offshore investments. Advice to recommendations relate only to the investments of the TSB Marketing Group, regulated by the Financial Services Authority only for TSB life insurance, pensions, unit trusts, offshore investments, advice to recommendations relate only to the investments of the TSB Marketing Group, regulated by the Financial Services Authority only for TSB life insurance, pensions, unit trusts, offshore investments. Number: 1087268 TSB Bank Scotland plc, Hays Duncanson House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4JH. Registered in Scotland Number: 002201. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

The Guardian News in brief Murder over gun Too new' Fro ChildLine daa Harding funera public keen on The Big Issue The to a p pen ye But ti bes Get that pe call as Virgin 0345 9



News in brief

Murder hunt begins over gun victim, 17

POLICE launched a murder inquiry yesterday when a teenager died in hospital after being shot through the throat in his car. Orville Bell, 17, had been on a life-support machine since the shooting in Lonsight, Manchester, last Wednesday, police said. His family gave permission for doctors at Manchester Royal Infirmary to end his life at midday.

'Too new' Freud painting lost

AN art gallery yesterday lost its fight to buy Lucian Freud's Portrait on a Grey Cover after being denied lottery cash on the grounds that the painting is too new. The deadline for the Abbot Hall gallery in Kendal, Cumbria, to raise sufficient funds had been extended twice by the New York dealer of Freud's work.

ChildLine decade aids 1/3m

MORE than 500,000 youngsters have been helped by ChildLine over the past decade, according to a report published yesterday which reveals that the charity has counselled 600,000 children and answered around 8 million calls since it was set up.

Harding funeral 'private'

THE funeral of Matthew Harding, the vice-chairman of Chelsea Football Club, will be a private service for close family and friends tomorrow, it was announced yesterday. The multi-millionaire was killed last week when the helicopter taking him and three friends back to London from a Chelsea game at Bolton, Lancashire, crashed.

Public keen on green levy

TWO out of three consumers think some or all of the subsidy for nuclear power should be switched to fund green energy rather than phased out simply to cut electricity bills, according to a Mori survey. One third think the entire levy — currently 10 per cent of the bill, but due to go in two years — should be switched to renewable energy like wind and wave power.

The Big Issue

IN an article on the Big Issue yesterday, it was wrongly stated that the magazine raises £14 million a week. Sales generate around £14 million a year. Half of that money goes directly to homeless people, the rest — less costs — supports Big Issue charities.



Roger Salmon: unfairly sacked for taking a trip to Pontins

Millionaire sacks employee for taking a holiday Lottery winner fires school chum

A BUSINESSMAN who took several luxury breaks after winning £11 million on the National Lottery sacked an employee he had known since junior school... for taking a week's family holiday. After winning the jackpot, Mark Gardiner celebrated with a £50,000 cruise on the QE2, and then took friends and family on a £100,000 trip to Barbados. He also took two holidays in Tenerife and another in Madeira.



Mark Gardiner: Celebrated lottery win with holidays

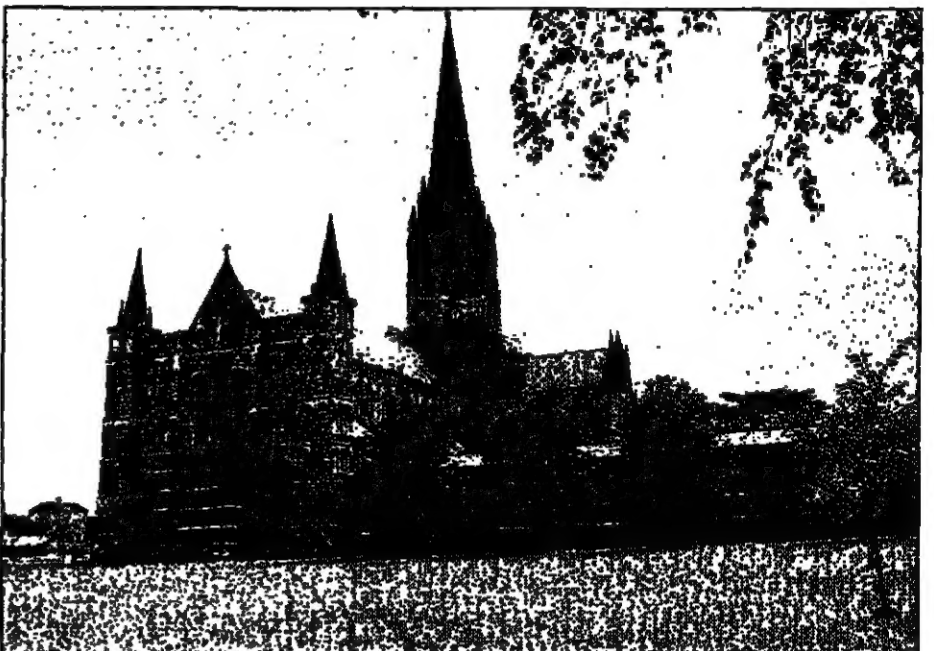
— who has not worked since he was sacked in June — said afterwards: "He always said I resigned, but I didn't. He sacked me and I have won that point." Mrs Salmon added: "When Mark won the money all he wanted to do was build up the business, and he hounded Roger day and night to go and work for him."

Cardinal in new attack on Blair

Cardinal Thomas Winning, the leader of the Scottish Catholic Church, yesterday refused to back down in his row with Tony Blair over Labour's abortion policy, urging Roman Catholics to examine their consciences before they vote in a general election.

Decision on £76m bypass delayed

CAMPAIGNERS against the £76 million bypass for the city of Salisbury, Wiltshire, yesterday won a reprieve against plans which they say will destroy a view of the cathedral from water meadows painted by Constable. The Government refused to give final approval to the 11 mile road, deferring its fate until after the general election.



Reprieved for now... campaigners say the view of Salisbury Cathedral will be destroyed

The cardinal is particularly worried at the reported plans of Labour's Northern Ireland spokesman, Mo Mowlam, to extend the 1987 act to the province. In a clear allusion to Mr Blair, he said yesterday: "How can you say that you are against abortion and it is a matter of conscience, and go and vote for it?"

Pop on the box tops BBC plan for eight pay TV channels

RADIO 1 is to be launched on television next year as one of eight subscription channels planned by the BBC. One-TV, likely to be modelled on the European satellite music station MTV, will feature Radio 1 presenters and live events, including the annual summer seaside roadshows.

Put GP funds 'on hold'

LABOUR should drop its threat to abolish fundholding by family doctors and instead propose to put the scheme on hold, an influential left-of-centre think tank says today. Successful fundholders should be "left alone" at least until more is known about the costs and benefits of the scheme, says the Institute for Public Policy Research.

Bullying in the police 'increasing'

THE number of police officers reporting bullying in the force has risen in the last year, according to a report by the Chief Inspector of Constabulary. But the report also had encouraging news about police efficiency. Nearly 99 per cent of police forces now met their 999 response times. In the last year monitored, police had had to respond to a total of 19 million incidents of which 3 million required an immediate response. More than 7 million 999 calls were answered, an increase of 13 per cent on the previous year.

Police call on criminals and 'dodgy' car dealers to help them in tracking down IRA

PROFESSIONAL criminals and "dodgy" car dealers could hold the key to thwarting IRA bombing operations on the mainland, it emerged yesterday. It is believed there are at least 10 IRA members in London preparing attacks. Details of the latest initiatives of the operation against the IRA on the mainland emerged as the Metropolitan police launched its first counter-terrorism advertising campaign. Posters urging people to ring a confidential hotline with information will appear in British Rail stations, the Underground and on London buses, and advertisements will be run in the local press.

In recent cases the IRA has bought vehicles over the telephone and the purchaser has arrived later on a motorcycle wearing a crash helmet and carrying cash. The vehicle has been left with the keys in it for collection, so no one who takes part in the transactions can be identified. Anti-terrorist officers want such sales to be reported immediately. Commander John Griev, head of the Anti-Terrorist Branch, appealed to the "dodgy" end of the car trade to give information, which could be done anonymously. It is believed that IRA members are on the mainland, mainly carrying out reconnaissance of possible targets and preparing safe houses and getaway routes. Experienced bombers from Ireland would join them prior to the attacks, it is suggested.

Boy, 2 set to join Mensa... protein may be... ar... ments... 4... hback... at... 58 000... TSB... Get that pension sorted, call us today. Virgin direct personal financial service 0345 95 95 95



World news in brief

UN urges action to avert Zaire exodus

THE United Nations refugee agency expressed concern yesterday about 800,000 Rwandan and Burundian Hutus cut off from foreign aid in eastern Zaire...

13 die as ceasefire breaks

GUNMEN killed 13 people and critically wounded 17 others in a drive-by attack yesterday at a crowded junction in south Mogadishu...

Leader held for Pinochet slur

CHILE'S Communist party leader, Gladys Marin, was arrested yesterday on charges of defaming former dictator General Augusto Pinochet...

Bishop denies Kohl invitation

THE 1986 Nobel peace laureate and Roman Catholic bishop of East Timor, Carlos Belo, yesterday denied receiving an invitation to meet Helmut Kohl during the German chancellor's two-day visit to Indonesia...

Priests 'older and fewer'

VATICAN officials yesterday painted a grim picture of the state of the Catholic priesthood in Europe, saying that fewer and older priests are working in a "strongly hedonistic" culture...

Judge hurt in Cypriot blast

JUDGE Michalis Mavronicholas arrives in a serious condition at hospital in Nicosia, Cyprus, after a bomb exploded outside his Limassol home yesterday...

Stallion back on target

A CHAMPION stallion in New Zealand has been put on an experimental fertility programme previously used on humans after failing to match his recousse success on the stud farm...

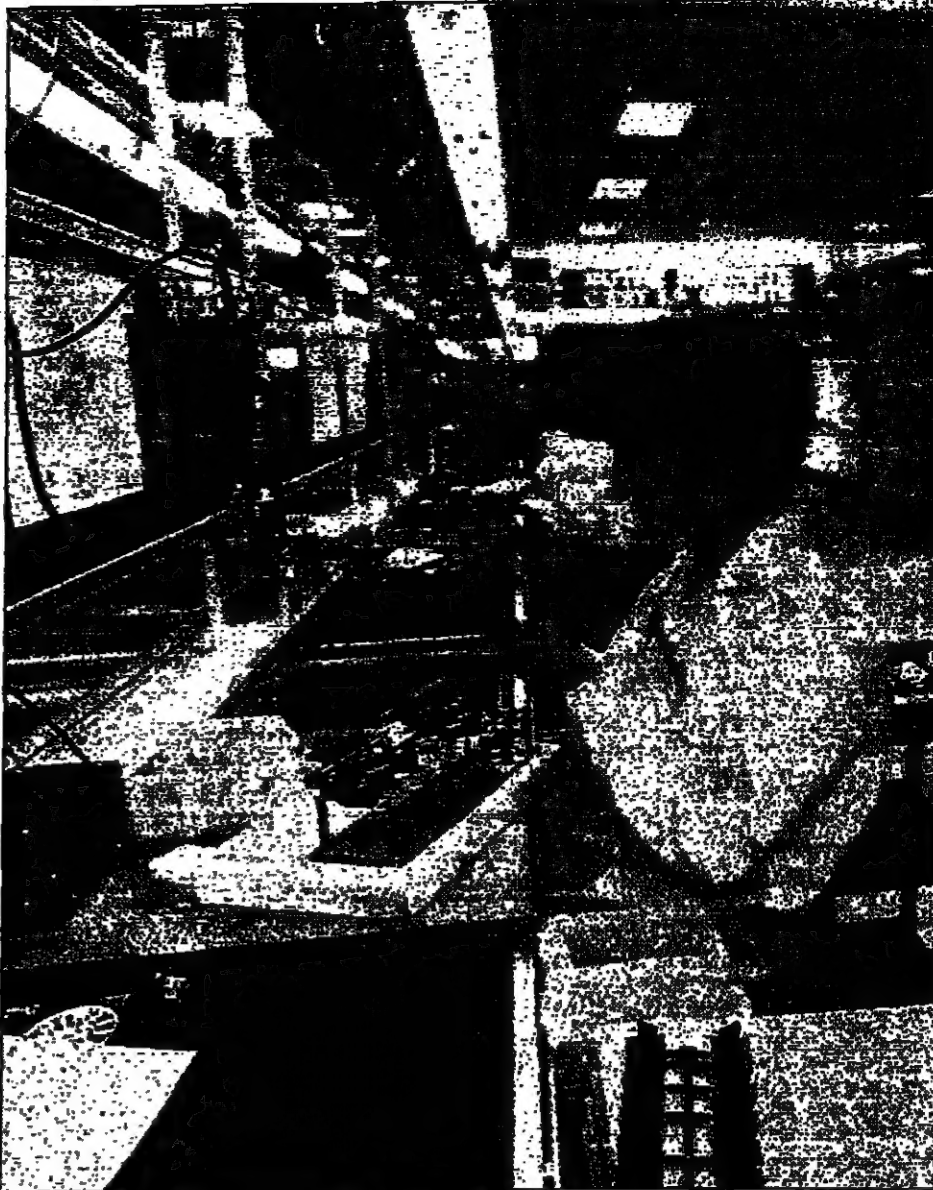
Pageant protesters play dirty

INDIAN police arrested 16 women who stormed a Bangalore showroom yesterday and smeared goods made by a Miss World sponsor with cow dung and coal tar to protest at next month's pageant...

Hands across the sea



The JVC factory worker (left) now assembling TV sets in East Kilbride may soon be doing the work of her French counterpart, making hi-fi sets



PHOTOGRAPHS: MURDO MACLEOD, REA

'Lottery' losers mourn jobs

Alex Duval Smith in Villiers-la-Montagne

FRENCH factory workers who are losing their jobs on a hi-fi assembly line, because their Japanese employer is concentrating production in Scotland...

no future. Employers' costs may be low in Britain but still they cannot compete with Malaysia...

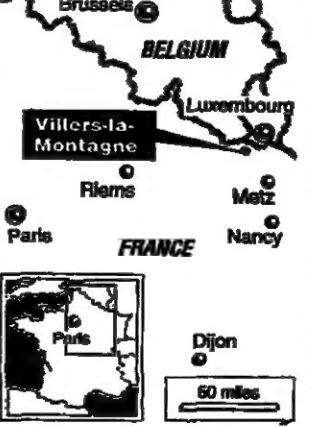
When they finish in Scotland they'll return to the Far East, having spent 10 years benefitting from subsidies and securing a foothold in the European market

held hostage five of the company's directors for a day. On Thursday they plan a one-day strike...

sign investments and takeovers - seen as being agreed with few job guarantees...

Reasons for relocating

Scotland's strong cards: Manufacturing productivity annual growth rate of 5.2 per cent; Less onerous restrictions on labour...



Russian power play made public

David Hearst in Moscow says the push to promote the prime minister has begun

THE Russian prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, is being promoted as a safe, healthy and reliable acting head of state as the countdown begins to President Boris Yeltsin's heart operation...

him as an immensely wealthy bureaucrat, who placed his sons in important Gazprom posts and built himself a large dacha outside Moscow...

Advertisement for 'Come home TO WORLD-CLASS LUXURY' featuring Ivory Towers and Manhattan Personal Floors. Includes contact information for Unitech House in New Delhi.

Advertisement for G2 page 12 featuring a quote from Louisa Young: 'Do you want to fall asleep during the film, feel put down by the career girls at the party...'.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, featuring a woman's face and the word 'Confident'.



Confident of election victory, the White House cast is jockeying for position



Hillary Clinton: likely to play traditional first lady



Richard Holbrooke: 'too cocky' for state department



Madeleine Albright: tipped to succeed Christopher



Strobe Talbott: likely to get national security role



Mickey Kantor: attorney-general's post beckons



John Deutch: hopes to be handed the defence job



Robert Rubin: likely to remain at the treasury



George Mitchell: safe choice for state department

Clinton's rising stars eye top roles



Jonathan Freedland in Washington

THE guessing game has begun. Not a single vote has been cast, but already the Washington gossip...

dence, his aides are privately presuming victory and pondering their next moves. Attention is focusing on two or three glamour jobs and the future role of the team's most controversial member: Hillary Clinton.

"They learned the pitfalls during the first two years," said one administration official yesterday. "Even the president has admitted it was very risky to appoint his wife to the healthcare job, and he has resolved not to repeat his mistake."

longer ran nor even attended strategy meetings at the White House. Elsewhere, however, there will be movement. George Stephanopoulos, the boy-wonder adviser who achieved political stardom in the 1992 campaign, has said he hopes to move on after five years at Bill Clinton's side, fearing burn-out.

ary, perhaps to seek the governorship of California in 1998. The front runner to succeed him is his deputy, Harold Ickes, a veteran political operative. Promotion would be a reward for his stewardship of the 1996 campaign. But President Clinton may balk at the last minute - elevating a New York liberal like Mr Ickes could send the wrong signal at the start of a new term.

of state, having failed to crown his tenure with a comprehensive Middle East peace deal. He is ready to return to Los Angeles. The favourite to replace him is the ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright. Mr Clinton would dearly love to appoint the first female secretary of state, and Ms Albright is an accomplished television performer. But some say she is not smart enough for the job - her nickname is Half-Bright.

Former assistant secretary of state, Richard Holbrooke, won plaudits for brokering peace in Bosnia but is seen as too egotistical to defer to Mr Clinton. His consolation might be the UN ambassadorship. Strobe Talbott, Mr Christopher's deputy, would be considered only if the Democrats retake the senate, otherwise Republicans would crush his nomination. Instead he is likely to become national security adviser, replacing the lacklustre Anthony Lake.

succeeded him. Robert Rubin will probably stay at the treasury, while Henry Cisneros and Hazel O'Leary have both been tainted with too much scandal to remain at housing and energy respectively. Janet Reno likes being attorney-general, but has Parkinson's disease and is likely to be pushed aside to make way for the commerce secretary, Mickey Kantor.

Parties trade dirty money claims

The funding of both campaigns is proving embarrassing, writes Martin Walker

THE Republican National Committee yesterday filed a lawsuit against their Democratic counterparts, as a new report suggested that the Republicans were benefiting from the international arms trade.

until after election day next Tuesday. The Republicans want the data to prove their contention that the Clinton campaign "is bought and sold and paid for by secretive, mysterious and even plain illegal Asian money".

Policy Institute in New York. The US exported \$15 billion in arms sales in 1995, of which more than half were paid for by US grants, loans and subsidies. By far the biggest payer for US arms exports is the taxpayer, rather than Saudi Arabia or Taiwan, which, the report says, makes a friendly Congress essential to the industry.

controversial television lecture series Renewing American Civilisation, which was started with a \$10,000 contribution from Lockheed back in 1991," says William Hartung, an expert on the global arms trade, who wrote the report.



Bob Dole speaks at a rally in California, as a report suggests the Republicans are benefiting from arms sales

'Crib-sheet king' faces legal test over time-zone cheating scam

Ian Katz in New York

IN advertisements for his American Test Centre, George Kobayashi boasted of a "unique method" of preparing students for the standardised tests to gain a place on graduate degree courses. The Los Angeles-based businessman guaranteed that his students would achieve the test results they required.

ashi \$8,000 and travelled to Los Angeles to take the admission exam while expert examinees working for him took the test in New York under assumed names. They relayed the answers to the multiple choice questions to Los Angeles, where his staff engraved them in code on coloured pencils which were then supplied to his students. Clients also received advance notice of essay subjects in the exam.

Advertisement for Samsung fax machines. Text: PLAIN PAPER FAXES DON'T FADE. DON'T CRINKLE. AND ARE REFAXABLE. It's a Samsung. Includes an image of a Samsung fax machine.







Diary  
Matthew Norman

WITH the proceeds of his Prince Charles book, Jonathan Dimbleby and his missus Bel Mooney have bought themselves a large house in Forkington, east Sussex, just below the Long Man of Wilmington. After the drama of Bel's involvement with the Newbury bypass protest, which was better than the sleepy, picturesque village of Forkington to find a little peace? But would you believe it, the one detail of which Ms Mooney seems unaware is the local campaign to stop the widening of a 12-mile stretch of the nearby A27, on which the Transport Department plans to build a 6-lane road, a road which, though the largest of its kind in Sussex, the A27 action group has an altogether different class of protester in Newbury, boasting among its 1,500 members Sir Dirk Bogarde, Harold Pinter, Susannah York, and six peers of the realm including Lord Hesley. Whether Ms Mooney, with her Newbury background, would be considered too uncouth is uncertain. "I don't think she's a figure of fun," says one campaigner. "She'd be most welcome to join us. Do tell her to get in touch."

I AM enchanted by the phraseology used by the Sun, in its exclusive interview with a woman who claims that her lover Geoffrey Boycott beat her up. "Margaret, 44, made her allegations," reports the paper, "during a meeting at a London hotel with publicist Max Clifford." Ah, I see, so she was having her meeting with Max, about who knows what, when by a tremendous slice of luck the allegations popped out just at the moment a Sun reporter happened to be passing. Such insouciance.

IN the Racing Post, I am delighted to read that the jockey Walter Swinburn, three times a Derby winner, has completed his comeback from the very serious injury he sustained in Hong Kong. According to Graham Green's page-three report, Mr Swinburn "made a fairytale comeback" with a "brilliant Breeder's Cup Turf triumph" in America on Sunday; furthermore, he "fully restored his reputation as a world-class jockey". Marvellous: Mr Swinburn won't ride again this year in Britain, writes Mr Green, but "will ride abroad if he is required for big races". Well, well. Graham Green is to be warmly congratulated on so pithy and readable a report. How he finds the time when he is so busy with his other job — he is Walter Swinburn's agent — I will never know.

COULD it be that, in her dotage, the Baroness Thatcher has become a republican? Associated Press reports that last week, Lady Thatcher astounded charity event organisers in Spartanburg, South Carolina, by requesting for her arrival not God Save The Queen, but America The Beautiful. Lady Thatcher once said scornfully that the monarch was the kind of woman who would vote SDP, but this is hardly an excuse for such behaviour. Treachery is a very strong word indeed, so we'd better not use it. But we are sorely tempted.

MEANWHILE, no "we are grandfather" nonsense from Lady T's old opponent. Neil Kinnock is keeping a very low profile about his newly-born first grandchild. For those who missed the discreet notice in yesterday's Guardian about this "marvellous new Labour gain", her name is Margaret. Hilda — just my little joke; she is Johanna Elisabeth... and she is the first Kinnock in 1,000 generations to be born in Brussels, where Neil and Glenys's son Stephen also lives with his Danish wife.

THE Fortean Times reports a miraculous escape in Regensdorf, Switzerland. A freak gust of wind carried Aimé Grosjean from his 17th-floor balcony and hurled him into the air. But just as his future looked bleak, another gust delivered him safely on to the balcony of the 16th floor. That flat's owners were out, and Mr Grosjean walked away with cuts and bruises on his arm.

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?



# Fashionable feast for fat ladies

Commentary  
Catherine Bennett

AFTER years of merciless body fascism, Conde Nast, the company that publishes Vogue, has had a change of heart. It has hearkened to the pleas — the breathless, wheezy pleas — of the obese: the chubby and the tubby, the podgy and the frankly pot bellied. This week it launches *Encore*, "an exclusive magazine created especially for you" — those of you, that is, who are size 16 to 32, with waists over 32 inches — a measurement recently designated a health risk. Vogue House has taken up the cudgel until now wielded almost exclusively by the massive paw of Dawn French.

As obesity is now considered by the World Health Organisation to be a disease of epidemic proportions, the arrival of a magazine aimed at flattering its sufferers is no less an event than would be the publication of glossy new magazines called, say, *Snow*, or *Rat-Arsed*, aimed at glorifying smoking and alcohol-

ism. Yet *Encore* (Come Again? More Please? Seconds for Anybody?) the magazine for women with a serious health problem, is being introduced as a sort of victory for good sense, which will help cultivate the self-esteem of "the fuller figured teenage girl, bombarded with images of skinny models".

Acute skinniness is dangerous, occasionally fatal, but the eating disorder of obesity affects many more people — around six million adults in this country. Moreover, all those tyrannical images seem to have had little obvious effect on the nation's weight. Obesity doubled in the last decade. Many schoolchildren now resemble the Hon Nicholas Soames. Few new army recruits can manage more than a shambling trot.

Yet, in *Encore*, obesity is to be cherished. Even when it gets in the way, or makes you feel unhappy. "Show your cleavage and no one will see your double chin", suggests the wily Monica Zipper, *Encore's* size-20 fashion tipster.

Before long, however, such diversionary ruses may be deemed unnecessary. While the adjective ghetto where it languished, until recently, alongside such outcasts as ugly, unhealthy and greedy. Next month, at an exhibition devoted to images of contented fat women, the Fat Women's Group will present awards to women who have

enhanced the image of female corpulence. "We are going to celebrate being fat." The fact that fat women might be smugly indifferent to male oppression is not the only significant challenge to Orbach's theory. If fat is a feminist issue, why are 13 per cent of British men obese too (compared with 16 per cent of women)? The answer is contained in yet another work of fat promotion, Richard Klein's book, *Eat Fat*, which comes out next year. He concedes that fat is no longer, if it ever was, a feminist issue: for men like himself, fat is a life-style choice.

And this, according to Klein, a keen consumer and palper of fat, both on the plate and on the female body, is how should be. "Fat beautiful, sexy and strong," he exults. "Fat is a fabulous three-letter word." His ideal

is the Venus of Willendorf, not often presented as a role model for the young woman of today. But even Klein has to admit that limitless fat is not very good for you. His own mother, for example, became so fat she could no longer breathe when asleep — "her fat was suffocating her". Nor do most people seem to share his enthusiasm for five-bellied porn stars. It's just prejudice, he thinks.

Maybe he's right. After all, most of us are not doctors, and may feel quite indifferent

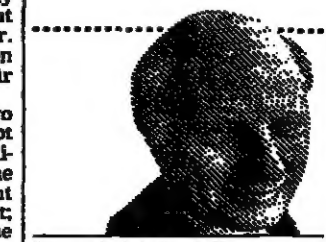
if half the population wishes to embrace physical decrepitude followed by untimely death. We just don't like the look of it. Perhaps, as Klein suggests, we should put this distaste to one side, and consider the practical advantages of being fat.

For example, if famine returned to these shores, fat people might last longer than thin ones. If a hurricane struck, they might not get blown over so easily. If they fell into an icy sea, the fat might well stay afloat longer. On dry land, they can save on central heating, using their own insulation.

It doesn't really add up to much, does it? Certainly not enough to challenge the medical statistics, or to convert the majority of people who want to lose, not gain, weight; whose ideal is to be like the Sun's latest heroine, Sylvia George, who can eat and eat without putting on weight.

Even without compelling arguments on its side, the fat movement could still make converts if it had some appropriate role models. Feminists, after a little searching, came up with Aphra Behn, and Artemisia Gentileschi; they even made some useful capital from obscure wives, who could be presented, at a pinch, as the true authors of their famous husbands' work. So, too, fat campaigners must seek out great fat people in history. There's Frier Tuck, of course, Churchill, Dr Johnson, Balzac, James Joyce and Oliver Hardy. Many famous thin people must have followed Jack Sprat's example, and lived with stout partners. Turning to the present day, the fat movement can boast the figures of Chancellor Kohl, Andrea Dworkin and Vanessa Feliz. It would be helpful if the list could also include the female editor of *Encore* magazine. But she turns out to be a size 12. A ruthless place, Vogue House.

# Even voting's not what it used to be



David McKie

DEAR SIR, In the Evening Standard recently, Peter Kellner predicted a Labour majority at the next election of 59 seats. Yet now I read of a Michael Heseltine forecasting a Tory win by 60. Who is right? — JM, London SW1

DEAR JM, Kellner is a respected analyst whose predictions are based on close scrutiny of the evidence. Heseltine is a politician who will say whatever he thinks will best serve the cause of a Tory fifth term. My advice in the matters has always been unequivocal: go for the one more likely to be objective.

But today, one can't be so sure. One reason is the state of the polls. After the 1992 debacle the industry re-examined its methodology. The main reasons why things went wrong were swiftly agreed. The appropriate remedies weren't ICM in the Guardian made radical changes. They switched to random sampling using telephones; made substantial corrections to raw results on the basis of other evidence, including recollection of how respondents had voted before; and publicised "adjusted" figures rather than unadjusted ones. Changes elsewhere were less drastic, while some organisations still preferred unadjusted results to adjusted ones. Thus some newspapers nowadays indicate Labour leads of 30 points or more while others suggest 15.

In the Observer on September 15, Kellner offered himself as a peacekeeping force, suggesting that evidence drawn from the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) might finally settle the arguments. But in the sad traditions of civil war, the participants largely ignored him. We now seem doomed to go into the coming election with a barrage of oracles all telling different stories, and no way of knowing which to prefer until we see the results.

Yet even if the polls were agreed, and right, forecasting would still be tougher than ever. Psephology is deeply attached to precedent. Thus at the last election, some commentators (like me) clung to two calculations. No party, not even Labour in 1945, had ever achieved the kind of swing Labour needed to get a working majority. But equally, no governing party had recovered from the depths of unpopularity which the Tories achieved in the

late days of Thatcher to get back into office. As a basis for predicting past contests, that might have worked pretty well. But the nature of British elections has substantially changed. Old loyalties, rational or instinctive, have faded. We have seen the rise of a shop-around vote, with the parties increasingly offering shop-around programmes.

Then there's the new profusion of minor parties. The one which most worries established parties, of course, is James Goldsmith's. The Telegraph got very excited on Saturday about a poll which it said suggested that the Referendum Party might have "a considerable impact" on the next election. The basis appeared to be that Goldsmith's support had topped 1 per cent. Others might think that, given the money spent on press adverts and his Brighton love-in, such an impact was pretty pitiful. But yesterday, under the heading "Poll bears out Tory fears on Goldsmith", the Telegraph had another go, with a poll on behalf of HBSC James Capel among 1,000 former Tory voters. More than a third of those surveyed had topped 1 per cent. Others might think that, given the money spent on press adverts and his Brighton love-in, such an impact was pretty pitiful. But yesterday, under the heading "Poll bears out Tory fears on Goldsmith", the Telegraph had another go, with a poll on behalf of HBSC James Capel among 1,000 former Tory voters. More than a third of those surveyed had topped 1 per cent.

More unsettling still is the breakdown of the old, tried relationship between votes and seats. Through many elections, analysts simply assumed a uniform swing in every constituency, and relied on the law of averages to iron out the kinks. That worked well in 1983 and decently well in 1987, but in 1992 it was hopeless. On the basis of uniform swing you'd have expected a Tory lead over Labour of 7.5 per cent to give them a lead in seats of something like 60. In fact it was 21.

SOME of that may have been due to Labour's unexpected efficiency in seats where it mattered. There was clearly more tactical voting. There was also, perhaps, a greater degree of "kinkiness" in individual constituencies than before. That's a pattern the next election may well repeat, especially in Scotland and Wales, with the redistribution of many seats creating further uncertainties.

The news agency Reuter has created a panel of psephological experts whom it plans to ask every month to forecast/guess the election outcome. I'm told that one of this month's predictions puts Labour's majority as high as 125; there may also be those who still think the Tories can win. The best advice I can give you, JM, is that the result on polling day is likely to fall somewhere between these extremes. But don't bet on it.

The three Rs: current crusaders want to add two more. But, Geoff Mulgan argues, morality is best formed by experience, not by lectures or rote learning

# Rights and wrongs

FOR ANYONE who feels nauseous when they hear politicians preaching morality, this will be an uncomfortable week. The wave of concern that has followed Frances Lawrence's call last week for a moral crusade looks set to reach a crescendo this Friday when the National Forum for Values in Education publishes its long-awaited final report.

If the leaks are to be believed, the majority report will propose common values — the "new 10 commandments" — that children will have to learn by heart, while a minority will demand a far more forceful assertion of the virtues of the nuclear family, marriage and monogamy.

Even though much of its contents will turn out to be pretty bland, for many liberals the very idea of the state trying to promote values is objectionable, as well as futile. But the public demand for some action to improve standards of behaviour, all the way from corporate directors shamelessly lining their pockets to young men rampaging down high streets on a Saturday night, is now irresistible.

In any case, governments can't help but influence people's morality. The messages they send through the curricula in schools, through how public services treat people, and how political leaders live their lives, inevitably shape the moral climate.

Unfortunately, like so many debates on morality in modern Britain, this one has gone badly astray. All the lessons learned, over many decades, about how morality is learned seem to have been ignored in a frenzy of pontification. The first fundamental error is the belief that virtue and morality can be taught rather than learned. In the words of the minds of the Nick Tates and the leader writers is an image of a Victorian teacher spelling out step by step to obedient pupils the differences between right and wrong. In fact, as Aristotle understood more than 2,000 years ago, people can only be educated into a life of virtue through active participation in the life of a society, just as people can only be educated in music by making music, not by being told about it.



The best moral education is not based on chalk and talk, but on practical experiences, preferably outside the classroom, in which children learn to take responsibility, to deal with other people's needs, and to reflect continuously on the moral nature of their choices. The Italian phrase *impara fare* (learn to do) is just my little joke; she is Johanna Elisabeth... and she is the first Kinnock in 1,000 generations to be born in Brussels, where Neil and Glenys's son Stephen also lives with his Danish wife.

schooling, which treats children as passive infants waiting to receive knowledge, rather than as active citizens, is the very worst way to teach morality. The second mistake is to forget that moral education has to be based on respect. If teachers aren't respected, their messages simply don't get through. The same applies to politicians and church leaders, who blithely ignore just how much public respect for them has fallen. You need authority before you can preach, and few of our institutions have that authority, not least because of their own moral failings. Their first priority should be to clean up their own act, not to pathologise the young.

Much the same point applies to punishments (and corporal punishment has, predictably, come back on to the agenda). If you don't respect the system that punishes you, you try to avoid getting caught next time rather than learning that your crime was wrong. The third great mistake is to understand morality as a fixed set of principles, that can be almost literally cast in stone. Several thousand years of thought in all the world's major religions have taught us that morality isn't like this: it is much better understood as a development rather than a rule book, and a development that involves learning the inner disciplines to rise above instincts and selfish desires until ultimately, in the words of the great English philosopher Henry Sidgwick, we can take the "point of view of the universe". This sort of moral

development is a world away from rote learning; indeed unless it involves doubts and criticisms, it is hardly a development at all.

Many of the best schools have learnt these lessons. Their curricula include opportunities for children to run their own projects, to engage with the outside world, and to think rigorously about the moral implications of what they do. The best try to teach their pupils to think and philosophy can be discussed as young as five or six — so that they don't end up like most adults relying on one or two all-purpose justifications, such as traditional family values or religion, to guide them through their life.

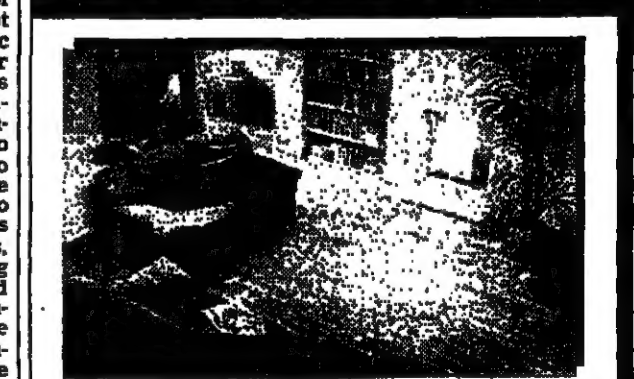
Unfortunately, the pressures on schools are now pointing the opposite way. If you are judged solely by your exams then it is harder to put resources into providing practical education outside the classroom. If your teachers are stressed simply coping with changing curricula, they are unlikely to have the spare energy to create imaginative ways for children to learn.

The good news, however, is that we now have available a far more useful source of thinking about moral education than crude new codes. A mass of research is showing that the best predictor of people's success in life is not their IQ or their academic qualifications, but rather their "emotional intelligence": their ability to empathise with other people, to understand their feelings, to motivate and connect. These qualities are very close to what we would recognise as day-to-day moral qualities, and they are vital to making people good parents and good citizens. They can be cultivated, and they can even be measured. They are also central to the parallel debate about schools exclusion, which is so often caused by lack of basic emotional capacities. If schools could do more to cultivate these, they really would be preparing children for lives in which they will face a far more complex set of moral choices than their parents did.

Frances Lawrence called in her manifesto for "a calm and quiet exploration of the problems". Instead, Britain's leaders and media have been loudly promoting a very backward-looking view of morality, one fit for an age of deference and authority that has now passed. It's bad enough that anyone should think that morality can be rammed down people's throats. But it's even worse that so much of what is being proposed seems designed to produce obedient and passive citizens, rather than the active and responsible ones we really need.

Demos's Forum On Active Learning in The Community is launching a major conference on November 20 with speakers including Charles Handy and David Hunt MP. For further information call 0171 353 4479

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Ismond Rosen

# For healing and creation

**T**HE life of Ismond Rosen, who has died aged 72, embraced two strands — medicine and art. As a boy in South Africa he had thought that the two would be in conflict and, as he wrote, "I wouldn't give up one for the other." This went on, he said, until "I realised that the two were not in conflict at all. I had to do both." And so he did, becoming not only a distinguished psychoanalyst but also a sculptor.

He was born, prematurely, in Johannesburg and his mother was hospitalised for the three months after his birth, both he and she fought for survival at the same time. He felt that "this early maternal deprivation, together with a compensatory intense closeness and overprotection, contributed to a sensitivity in me to the quality of attachment in relationships which also influenced my judgment and expression of aesthetic proportions in art." He also said he had observed and shared a similar history of severe early deprivation who seem to have compensated with enhanced intellectual capacities. Certainly Ismond's own intellectual capacity was remarkable.

He grew up in a large hotel run by his parents (his father had been part of the mass immigration of the 1890s from Russia) in the centre of Johannesburg. Ismond later claimed that the hotel provided a mental background for him which gave him an excellent preparation for dealing with different personalities and behaviour patterns.

He joined Wits Medical School aged just 16, and after qualifying worked at a health clinic in the poorest white part of Johannesburg. He then moved to Westcocks, South Africa's main mental

hospital, where his interest in psychiatry was first stimulated. But in 1951 he left for Britain to further both his medical and artistic careers.

In London, he approached the rather formidable figure of Professor Aubrey Lewis, the eminent psychiatrist at the Maudsley Hospital. The mood indicated he wanted to go off and study art and then come back in a year's time. Lewis said he could only offer him six months. In Paris, he went to the Academie Julian, did some stone carving at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, then travelled through Italy, reading Freud in Florence in the morning winter sunshine.

At that point a dream helped him to resolve his conscience and enabled him to elect to continue his medical studies. He stayed six years at the Maudsley during which time he also underwent a full psycho-analytical training. At first he found the Maudsley a cold and distant place, but in the end he said it offered perhaps a cry of protest at our own decay and destruction. Being a sculptor is the ultimate protest. If we can't survive, we must create things that will. It is a sort of immortality so the sculptor tends to choose materials that will endure, marble and bronze for example and also stainless steel.

Ismond died from motor neurone disease but went on fighting to the end. It was a monstrous injustice that someone who gave so much both to medicine and to art should have to suffer such a miserable condition. He married Ruth Abramowicz in 1963 and they had a son, Hugh, and a daughter, Dorely. His autobiography, *Along the Way*, is awaiting publication and we can look forward to appreciating the personal insights of this remarkable man.

**After Paris he travelled through Italy, reading Freud in Florence in the morning winter sunshine**

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den Clinic, the first psychiatric outpatient clinic in England, which later amalgamated with the Paddington Hospital and Day Hospital. After some difficult administrative tussles this centre was recognised as the first psychoanalytic clinic within the NHS. Ismond was its chairman from 1973-84 and worked hard to ensure its survival.

During this period he became involved in television programmes, such as *L'Altre* with David Stratford-Clark and also sex education on BBC's *Horizon*. He also played a key role in the production of the award-winning documentary on one of Freud's cases called *The Rat Man*.

Ismond's interest in art began in childhood, and he produced his first sculpture aged eight. It was a skull, and he always carried it in his pocket as a sort of talisman.

In the 1970s, he worked on more than 100 stainless steel sculptures as well as on paintings, lithographs and etchings. These all ultimately formed part of a show at the Camden Arts Centre. He also completed medical busts, one of Lister, another of John Hunter and one of Henry Maudsley. These busts and other works are housed in the Royal Society of Medicine.

His most recent work, the sculptural Holocaust Triptych, took a decade to complete. It was first exhibited at St Paul's Cathedral but is now permanently housed at our own deca and destruction. Being a sculptor is the ultimate protest. If we can't survive, we must create things that will. It is a sort of immortality so the sculptor tends to choose materials that will endure, marble and bronze for example and also stainless steel.

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'Being a sculptor is the ultimate protest'... Ismond Rosen with his Holocaust Triptych

was very infectious and was in some ways overwhelming. When asked why he was a sculptor, he said: "I believe it has to do with man's fear of dying. The urge to create is perhaps a cry of protest at our own decay and destruction. Being a sculptor is the ultimate protest. If we can't survive, we must create things that will. It is a sort of immortality so the sculptor tends to choose materials that will endure, marble and bronze for example and also stainless steel."

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Norman Morris  
Ismond Rosen, psychoanalyst and artist, born August 2, 1914; died October 16, 1996

Joanna Close writes: I met the graphic artist Abram Games (obituary, August 29) in 1968, while researching wartime propaganda against venereal disease. Among the posters he designed was one in 1941, which featured a stylized VD. We discussed the headline pun of Games's "Guard against VD" poster. "You owe it to yourself — your womanfolk..." the poster entreats. The secondary message — "Keep Straight Keep Sober" cuts across a stylized outline of a soldier standing in attention. The message that alcohol impairs sexual performance is hard to miss.

Before recounting the banter and mirth which accompanied his poster's appearance, Games asked in rather anxiously, "You are a married lady, aren't you?" For a moment, I didn't understand the relevance of his question. I then realised that he saw a correlation between sexual experience and marriage which he wanted to explain for him to explain the poster to an unmarried woman.

## Games that Games played

**Andrew McCloy writes:** Few of today's walkers realise the ground-breaking nature of *Journey through Britain* by John Ellilaby (obituary, October 27). Back in 1968, most of today's national trails didn't exist — the first, the Fensine Way, had only been open three years. Alfred Wainwright's walking books were virtually unknown, and the Ramblers' Association membership was a sixth of what it is today. *Journey through Britain* opened people's eyes to long-distance walking and to the land through which they walked. There is no greater compliment.

**Peter Coles writes:** Of all the exuberant characters at the Savage Club, John Ellilaby, whose upright stance and red-dish beard only showed his age late in life, stood out as a unique member. He was funny, serious, and told silly stories. His book on London, perhaps more than any of his other works on my bookshelves, remains a masterpiece of its kind. The reference on its fly-leaf to his wife Katie, "daily help, good references", makes one remember the warmth of his character.

George Houston

# Champion of the Highlands' cause

**G**EOURGE HOUSTON, who has died aged 74, was a leftwing academic who possessed rare interests for someone answering to that description, in land use and practical agriculture. Much of his work over a 50-year period related to the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

He was an early advocate of a Highland Development Board, finally brought to fruition by the Labour government in 1965 as a powerful interventionist instrument for redressing the economic disadvantages bequeathed both by history and geography to that region of Scotland.

Houston was also an influential adviser to successive governments on agricultural and marketing issues; notably to formulate government policy in the Wilson years. His particular loyalty to the Highlands and Islands derived from his Shetland parentage; his mother, a schoolteacher on the island of Mid Yell, married a local man.

Houston graduated from Edinburgh University and took a B. Litt from Balliol, before joining the political economy department at Glasgow University in 1951. He retained that academic base, specialising in agricultural economics, until his retirement in 1984, becoming a titular professor in 1970.

He had joined the Commu-

nist Party as a student but his first significant publication appeared under the imprint of the Fabian Society. This was a paper, written in the late 1940s, which argued the case for a Highland Board, particularly with a view to tackling the problems of land ownership and use. Later, when the legislation to establish such a body was introduced, the then Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, Michael Noble, himself an Argyllshire landowner, denounced the concept of a Highland Development Board as "a Marxist conspiracy". Houston observed wryly that a "Fabian conspiracy" might not have provoked the same excitement.

The case for a Highlands and Islands Development Board rested, above all, on the need for a force capable of taking on the great landowners and breaking up the sporting estates which they operated as private kingdoms. The initial perception was that the Board had been given these powers, including those of compulsory purchase.

Within a few years, however, it became apparent that the rhetoric had outstripped the reality by a considerable distance and that the Board's powers to intervene in the land market were no stronger than those of a local authority. This was a bitter disappointment for Houston and others who had driven the concept.

Even within such constraints, there was plenty of useful work to be done. Houston was appointed as an agricultural consultant to the Board in 1967 and he retained that role for 20 years. In it, he made a tremendous contribution to improving land use practices and ensuring that crofters and farmers benefited from the introduction of marketing expertise, even in the remotest areas.

He never abandoned his commitment to radical land reform and one of his lasting contributions to this debate was a book co-authored with Professor John Bryden and published in the mid-1970s, *Agricultural Change in the Scottish Highlands* was a seminal piece of work, which pulled together immensely detailed material, information on land use and assisting underproduction which resulted from the predominance of sporting interests. It made the case for land reform more powerfully than 30 speeches, on grounds of productivity rather than politics.

**H**OUSTON'S interests were by no means restricted to the Highlands and Islands. He was an early member of another influential think-tank, the Scottish Economic Society, and also acted as consultant to many national and international bodies including



Houston... land reformer

John Gregory

# In step with Russia

**J**OHN GREGORY, actor, dancer, teacher, ballet director and a founder, with his wife, Barbara Vernon, of The Legat Foundation, dedicated to preserve and perpetuate the teaching of the great Russian pedagogue Nicholas Legat, has died aged 82.

Born in Norwich, he began his stage career in Shakespeare and stage management, but in the late 1930s studied ballet with such eminent teachers as Igor Schwetoff, Stanislas Idzikowski and Nadine Nicolaeva Legat, widow of Nicholas. From them, he learned the ease, grace and elegance of the Russian school of classical dance, which he was to champion throughout his life.

He danced with such wartime companies as the Anglo-Polish Ballet and the Ballet Jooss, with whom he stayed a year. He appeared in Russian opera productions at the Coliseum and Cambridge theatres and, after the war, at Glyndebourne and in musicals.

During that time, he married Barbara Vernon, who had been a star pupil of Nicholas Legat. They raised a family and, in 1949, opened a school in Chelsea and the following year founded the Federation of Russian Classical Ballet, dedicated to teaching the method of Legat. Barbara Vernon became the principal teacher and among guest teachers who lent support to the enterprise were the great ballerinas of the St Petersburg Imperial Ballet, Mathilde Kesslinskaya —

prima ballerina assoluta of the Imperial troupe — and Diaghilev's adored Tamara Karavina.

In 1959, Gregory founded a small touring company which set out to "take ballet anywhere" and named it Harlequin to commemorate Vaslav Nijinsky who had been his first patron and godfather to his daughter. For 10 years, the troupe toured the British Isles but failing to retain the goodwill of the Arts Council, was forced by economic and political pressures to disband in



Gregory... an idealist

would like to organise a scheme whereby it might be kept intact and preserved for future students of ballet," he said at its inauguration. Lord and Lady Menzies had agreed to be patrons while Lady Kennedy (Moira Shearer, a former Legat pupil) is president.

Moreover, the trustees have just announced that The Lawrence Bailey Centre for the National Arts Education Archive Trust at University College, Bretton Hall, has received The Legat Exhibition — a superb assemblage created by Barbara Vernon — and at the Trust, the collection will be made accessible to researchers worldwide.

In his introduction to his book *The Legat Saga: Golden Years of the Russian Ballet*, published in 1992, Gregory wrote: "It was the deep humanity of Legat that placed expressive qualities and artistry above physical perfection and above mere technique. That is why his philosophy and science of classical dance must never be lost."

Gregory was a dreamer and idealist, no mean painter, and a writer of elegant prose. His wife complemented his character with her patient, unassuming support and practical good sense. They were a couple ideally matched and I enjoyed their friendship for nearly half a century.

**Mary Clarke**  
John Gregory, dancer, born April 15, 1914; died October 27, 1996

Jackdaw



## Potty questions

**T**AXI drivers: Architectural consultants are planning to nuzzle your toilets. The plans for Hong Kong Station Phase 1 (the new airport link station in Central) include a toilet for cabbies. This was planned as a humble rest room featuring two sit-down toilets and hand-wash basins, but a report from the MTR Corp's architectural department warns that the toilets are "too lavish".

"There is good reason not to provide a room for public service vehicle drivers to rest and relax in. This would encourage protracted parking by taxis within the station

whilst their drivers are beguiled into sitting around eating, smoking, gambling and chatting."

The report writers have obviously done heaps of research into toilets which may become centres of vice. "Assuming that the average person walks at 5kms an hour it would take about 80 minutes to walk from the parking spaces to the lavatories and back again, to which duration must be added the time spent in the facility itself. This could vary from about a minute for urination to several minutes for defecation." The key to the whole issue is in the heading to the next section of the report: "Lavatory Type May Be Critical."

"European type toilets encourage procrastination, as taxi drivers may be tempted to read newspapers and smoke therein, quite apart from attending the primary purpose of the visit." Thus Asian squat toilets should be installed to discourage lingering.

So there you have it. The entire issue of Asian values

and the economic miracle solved. Western economic growth is slower than that of East Asia because of the shape of their toilets.

The South China Morning Post reports of officials getting bogged down in details.

**State of mine**  
THE Commonwealth of Port Colicé, a new independent sovereign nation, announced its existence late yesterday by drafting a Declaration of Independence and distributing copies to the embassies of several countries.

Port Colicé (pronounced KAF-liss) is a nation of several citizens of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and New Zealand, with more expected to immigrate. Its territorial claims consist of the Province of Worthington, which lies entirely within Columbia, Maryland, and the Province of the Associated Realms, which claims parcels of land in several locations across North America; the two Provinces are said to total "several square metres", making

Port Colicé about or less than the size of the Holy See, the Vatican City State. The Declaration, drafted by the Provisional Revolutionary Council in Worthington, details that for reasons of "peace, brotherhood, sisterhood, human rights, scholarship, pagantry and good humour," the citizens of Port Colicé decided to declare their independence from all other nations.

Along with Dipesh Navsaria, 23, of the Associated Realms and of Washington DC, another signer and Council member, and Abigail Kramer, 3, daughter of Steve Kramer and his wife Lise Mendel of Worthington, the third signer, Kramer, distributed copies of the Declaration to several embassies in Washington. Turkey conducted the first, quite unofficial, dialogue with the Colicians, by instructing them to leave the Declaration at the door of the then-closed embassy, and opening the door and picking it up when the Colicians were well down the block. The first potential international incident for Port Colicé was with

Rwanda, when Abigail Kramer accidentally activated a sound-triggered spotlight system while slipping the Declaration under the closed Embassy's front door. The Colicians are preparing a statement of "goodwill towards the Government of Rwanda" should their delivery have caused any problems.

**Port Colicé declare their independence. Their Declaration of Independence can also be found at http://totole.access.digex.net/m**

**Fully plated**  
WE TRY to be interested. In the plate shop, for example, we try to be interested in plates, even though the idea of actually buying a plate has never occurred to us before. Who buys plates? Aren't they just there? We don't think we need a plate, but women don't shop because they need things. Women shop because they need to shop. And so shops exist that sell nothing but plates: rows and rows of plates. There is no balance here; only plates. It's plates or nothing. And plates are boring.

And we have to pretend to be interested in the choosing process, which is taking so long when all we want to do is go to sleep and be done with this platey place for ever. And if the plate shop is boring — it's nothing compared to the clothes shop. We try to keep awake by peering through the louvres of the changing room doors, but all we can see is feet with pop sox on. If they were just feet it



Maxim... plate-crazy

would be worth it, but they're not, and so we do fall asleep, with an elephantine slumping motion. Shops are not designed for men. Right by the door there is a big machine blowing hot, anti-man air which dehydrates our knees. Women don't realise how hard this is for us even though we've tried to explain many times during our "talk and share" discussions.

Yet, there she is, saying, "What do you think of this plate?" And in an unguarded moment we say, "The plate is bloody awful. All the plates are awful. Get any plate. Who cares?" This is not the right attitude. Women can't understand such honesty. They think we are up to something. Maxim on uncompromising hobbies.

**Savvy secrets**  
LEARN to Mingle in the Workplace: Schmoozing is so essential for success that many business schools are teaching the art to MBA candidates. Susan Roane (sic), author of "The Secrets of Savvy Networking", offers

tips for working a room: — Before a party, figure out things you might have in common with the other guests, whether they're peers, superiors or potential clients.

— Striking up a conversation with one person is much easier than injecting yourself into an existing crowd, so approach someone who's alone.

— Prepare a lively introduction. If you sell computer software, say, "I turn computer phones into computer nerds." If you're an accountant: "I'm so strong, I crunch numbers." You'll invite questions — and charm everyone in the process.

— Turn a contact into a connection by following up a phone call, an e-mail, a note. Cynthia Hanson schmoozing in the US Cosmopolitan.

**Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 110 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.**

Emily Sheffield

07/10/1996

Water firm  
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# Finance Guardian

## Fund manager's 'wrong box' mistake causes chaos

**Patrick Donovan**  
City Editor

**A**BUNGLING fund manager at the huge Di investment giant Edme Securities caused behind-the-scenes chaos during last month's £250 million break-up bid for the GT Chile Growth Fund after "hitting the wrong box" in the formal share offer from predator, Hong Kong-based Regent Pacific.

supported the bid. This saved Regent from the embarrassment of seeing a complete boycott of its new investment vehicle.

But it also created huge confusion among City advisers because the surprise emergence of such an overwhelmingly large shareholder meant that Regent could not proceed under the planned listing of the new investment vehicle it was offering former GT Chile shareholders.

Regent yesterday admitted that Heine had made a mistake, after being questioned by the Guardian on details disclosed in offering documents. Up till now, Regent, which controls more than \$2 billion worth of investments, has refused to make any comment on problems in the break-up deal.

Ms Sutcliffe admitted this had created behind-the-scenes problems but said: "The issue of a fund needing a spread of shareholders is one for sponsors."

Although Regent has now been seen to have won virtually no mainstream institutional support for its own Chile investment fund, directors yesterday insisted that this had no adverse implications for the company's plans to go for an international share listing.

But she declined to comment further on the proposals which are expected to be announced over the next couple of months.

The international sale looks set to reap multi-million pound profits for seven Regent directors who hold a 30 per cent stake in the investment funds parent company, Regent Kingpin Capital Management.

### Notebook

## Credit data best with pinch of salt



Edited by Mark Milner

**F**OR those at the Bank of England and Treasury who still shiver in the shadows of the 1980s Lawson boom, strong personal borrowing brings back bad memories. So yesterday's figures showing that net consumer credit remained above £1 billion for the third successive month — against City expectations — will fuel demands for higher interest rates.

future of the continent of Europe should be laid down according to British shopping schedules in general and the new year sales season in particular.

The British Retail Consortium, however, reckons that when and if the UK does sign up for a single currency, its members will be in the front line of making it work so it is worth getting its two penny worth in now. Actually it's a bit more than that. The RBC reckons the switch, as currently planned, will cost British retailers around £3.5 billion but, based on the experience of decimatisation, the costs could be halved by confining currency conversion to a single February day.

Outside the retail trade the RBC argument is unlikely to be seen as overwhelming. Other groups can and will make an equal case for other times and other ways for introducing the single currency. A "big bang" has many virtues of its own. Still the RBC has provided a timely reminder that there is more to monetary union than high finance and higher politics.

No doubt Napoleon, who had his own grand designs on Europe and who once dismissed the British as a nation of shopkeepers, would have thought the whole thing typical. Then look what happened to him.

### Lonrho epilogue

**L**ONRHO was the creation of Tiny Rowland so it was never likely to survive his departure for too long.

Yesterday brought a further chapter in the division of his legacy with the sale of Dieter Bock's stake in the company to South African mining giant, Anglo American.

Mr Bock has been a leading player in events at Lonrho since he arrived in the boardroom three years ago, first as ally then as rival to Mr Rowland though as non-executive deputy chairman he will now play a less active role than of yore.

Anglo's purchase gives it almost 26 per cent of Lonrho but it is adamant it is not planning a full bid. One consequence is that other Lonrho shareholders are unlikely to be able, at least immediately, to bow out at the 180p a share which Anglo paid Mr Bock.

The longer term might be different. At 183p the Lonrho share price is not that far adrift of the Anglo-Bock deal. Yesterday's Unionist political and economic establishment (or at least those parts which agree it should start places at all) it should take from January 1, 1999. Euro notes and coins however, will not be brought in until 2002, replacing national currencies over a six-month period.

Nonsense, say Britain's retailers. Far better to do the currency switch in one "big bang", after at least three years warning and in the appropriate February. Presumably, early closing day, for those shops which still have it, would be handy, too.

It might seem odd anyone should believe that the timetable for events, for many, will determine the epilogue.

## Bock quits Lonrho helm

Lee King

**D**IETER Bock, who ousted Tiny Rowland from Lonrho yesterday stepped down as chief executive of the mining and hotels conglomerate after selling his £257 million stake to South African mining group Anglo American.

Mr Bock, who forced Mr Rowland out last year after a prolonged and bitter boardroom struggle, is expected to take a stake in the non-mining part of Lonrho once its demerger is completed next year, and even become chief executive of the business.

The sale means Anglo American, part of the Oppenheimer trading empire which includes De Beers and Minero, owns nearly 26 per cent of Lonrho.

However, Julian Ogilvie Thompson, Anglo's chairman, insisted the company would not be making a full bid for Lonrho, but said it remained interested in the long term in "supporting" Mr Bock's mining business.

Mr Ogilvie Thompson said Anglo, which has long owned Lonrho's highly prized 30 per cent stake in Ghana-based mining group Ashanti, hoped to "enhance" the relationship with Ashanti.

The sale came about when Mr Bock, who had entered a "put and call" arrangement with Anglo on his 18.8 per cent stake in the company, exercised an option to sell the stake at 180p a share, netting him £257 million. Mr Bock estimated £135 million building the stake in 1992 and 1993, though the exact figure is not known because he borrowed money in the process.

Lonrho said the move was a logical step in its demerger, which is expected to be completed by the end of next year.

to take a crucial step in the next fortnight with the £700 million-plus sale of the group's Princess and Metropole hotel chains.

It is understood that Mr Bock, who will continue to oversee the demerger as non-executive deputy chairman, felt it was best to sell his stake in Lonrho ahead of the break-up — preventing suspicions that he started the demerger solely for his own interest. He denied that he had sold his stake under pressure from his bankers.

Mr Bock, who will be replaced as chief executive by deputy managing director Nick Morrill, is widely expected to buy Anglo's stake in the non-mining Lonrho assets after the demerger. These include a number of farming and sugar assets based in Africa, along with the Dutton-Forsyth and Jack Barclay car dealerships.

Last night, as analysts welcomed news of the deal, Lonrho shares closed up 4 1/2p at 183 1/2p.

Charles Kermat, an analyst at broker Panmure Gordon, said Lonrho shareholders should be grateful for what Mr Bock had achieved for the company and not begrudge him the profit on his stake.

The poor fellow had to battle with Tiny Rowland, but he's been able to realise the value in the company. Don't forget that he bought shares in a rescue rights issue at a premium to the market price, and he's got his just reward."

But Mr Rowland made a characteristically contemptuous attack on Mr Bock, accusing him of being a short-term player and of putting his own interests above those of Lonrho. He added: "He came into the company as a break-up merchant, and tried to sell it cheaply to Censor and then to Anglo — which I could have done at any time."



Dieter Bock, who took on Lonrho's Tiny Rowland and was 'able to realise the value in the company' PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

## Mentor chosen to save company who turned against Rowland

**D**IETER Bock was a financier little known outside his native Germany when early in 1993 he acquired an 18.8 per cent stake in Lonrho at the request of its founder Tiny Rowland, writes Ian King.

Lonrho was at a low ebb, having tumbled out of the FTSE-100 index after a disastrous slump in its shares after Robert Maxwell's death, which concentrated the City's mind on the perils of companies seemingly dominated by one man.

Mr Bock first invested in Lonrho in December 1992 when he bought half Mr Rowland's stake and acquired an option on nearly all the remainder.

At the time, Mr Rowland insisted it was his age that had forced him into the move, but he appeared happy with the situation. However, cracks soon appeared in the relationship between the two and they were at war a year later.

Mr Bock, now 58, made his name in Germany as a property developer. He qualified as a lawyer in 1970, as a tax accountant three years later, and started investing in the property market from his Munich base in 1974. His trading vehicle, Advanta Management, grew to take in assets in Europe, South Africa and America and had assets of over DM200 million (about £80 million).

Mr Rowland fell out with Mr Bock in late 1993, when they clashed over the appointment of non-executive directors whom Mr Rowland likened to "decorations on a Christmas tree".

After various attempts to unseat Mr Rowland from the board in a row over his expenses, Mr Bock drew blood a year later. Mr Rowland threatened to sue for wrongful dismissal before backing down with the declaration: "I'm buggered if I'm going to spend the summer suing Bock."

Mr Rowland's room for manoeuvre was cramped by financial problems at his Bugatti group.

The deal, to be announced later today, will pull Lonrho back from the brink of bankruptcy and represents the Malaysian firm's most significant step in its plans for European expansion to date.

Although the terms of the rescue have yet to be revealed, Proton is thought to be taking an 80 per cent stake in Lotus. The sports car company's former owner, Italian entrepreneur Romano Artioli, will retain 20 per cent.

The deal is a setback for other car makers who have been keen to snap up Lotus. It became mired in financial difficulties following hefty investment in its new sports car, the Elise, and engine development.

Motor industry sources indicated that Proton must have won GM's support for its bid to succeed, as the US group accounts for close to three-quarters of Lotus's engineering consultancy.

## Swiss bank subsidiary faces fraud charges

Patrick Donovan  
City Editor

**A**CHANNEL Islands subsidiary of the Union Bank of Switzerland has been charged with fraud by Jersey police investigating allegations involving currency dealing transactions worth up to \$2-million (£1.5 million).

Police yesterday confirmed that charges are being brought against the US-based Cantrade Private Bank Switzerland and one of its currency dealers, Peter Stone-man, together with a former partner of Touche Ross accountants.

under Jersey fraud law of "misleading and reckless statements between 1 January 1988 and 31 December 1993". The bank also stands accused of "concealing material facts which induced persons to take part in arrangements with respect to currency". Jersey police added that a Cantrade currency expert, Peter Stone-man, faces nine similar charges.

Alfred Williams, a former partner of Touche Ross in Nottingham, has also been charged with eight offences under Jersey fraud law.

The action follows complaints by 82 investors who carried out currency dealings through the bank. They have been represented by a Swiss trustee and a Bermuda-based

investment manager who are seeking compensation of up to \$50 million.

Cantrade yesterday said that the management team had been changed since the alleged offences. "The charges against the bank are being investigated and, subject to the investigation, will be contested. A plea of not guilty will be entered," Cantrade said.

"A civil law action against Cantrade in respect of related matters has been pending for some time. The action is brought by investment managers of funds used for foreign exchange trading."

"The trader concerned, Robert Young, who was charged in August, is not and has never been an employee of Cantrade. He was trading pursuant to a mandate given by the investment managers. Cantrade is defending the civil action but will meet any claims which are legally justified."

Cantrade is due to appear in court in Jersey on December 6.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

Australia 1.57	France 7.99	Italy 2.403	Singapore 2.22
Austria 16.57	Germany 2.9725	Malta 0.5825	South Africa 7.81
Belgium 43.77	Greece 37.03	Netherlands 2.9635	Spain 139.85
Canada 1.133	Hong Kong 12.13	New Zealand 2.2	Sweden 10.18
Cyprus 0.72	India 57.47	Norway 10.08	Switzerland 1.858
Denmark 9.14	Ireland 0.8925	Portugal 246.25	Turkey 14.885
Finland 7.2275	Israel 6.22	Saudi Arabia 6.00	USA 1.5735

Supplied by NatWestBank (excluding India, Spain and Israeli shohel).

## Proton to take over Lotus with £50m rescue package

**Asian motor tiger scoops racing name, reports Chris Barrie**

**T**HE Malaysian car company Proton is to take control of Lotus, the Norfolk-based sports car and engineering company, in a £50 million rescue bid.

The deal, to be announced later today, will pull Lotus back from the brink of bankruptcy and represents the Malaysian firm's most significant step in its plans for European expansion to date.

Although the terms of the rescue have yet to be revealed, Proton is thought to be taking an 80 per cent stake in Lotus. The sports car company's former owner, Italian entrepreneur Romano Artioli, will retain 20 per cent.

The deal is a setback for other car makers who have been keen to snap up Lotus. It became mired in financial difficulties following hefty investment in its new sports car, the Elise, and engine development.

Daewoo, the Korean company, was poised to secure an agreement with Mr Artioli but ran into opposition from General Motors, which uses Lotus's engineering business to develop cars and parts.

Motor industry sources indicated that Proton must have won GM's support for its bid to succeed, as the US group accounts for close to three-quarters of Lotus's engineering consultancy.

Lotus's 1,100 employees and clients will be hoping that the new partnership will bring calm after months of turbulence. Made famous by its motor-racing pedigree, the company has suffered acute cash flow problems after investing several million pounds in the £20,000 Elise and two new versions of the £40,000 Esprit. It also spent £3.5 million on new engine test cells.

The investment came as sales from the elderly Elan and the old version of the Esprit ran out. Mr Artioli's room for manoeuvre was cramped by financial problems at his Bugatti group.

This summer, Mr Artioli fired Neeral Kapur, Lotus's finance director, and three colleagues, amid allegations of financial impropriety. Mr Kapur denies the allegations.

Production of the Elise began in June. It is running at 1,200 a year, and Lotus hope to double that figure by next year. The company also plans a lighter version of the sports car which, with the two versions of the Esprit, will give it a four-car line-up.

Proton will use Lotus to gain access to much-needed technology to update cars dependent on elderly Mitsubishi designs. The company sells 10,000 cars a year in the UK, but plans to triple this by 2000 and is expanding in Europe.

It is to invest £220 million in a factory near Kuala Lumpur to boost output to 1 million cars a year, putting it alongside the Korean groups Hyundai and Daewoo.

## Bright sparks give Clarke funding tips for tax cuts

**IF CHANCELLOR Kenneth Clarke is struggling to find new ways of funding Budget tax cuts he could do worse than to take a look at six bright ideas suggested yesterday — mostly by civil servants, writes Sarah Ryke.**

He could save more than £1.5 million by merging the Fire and Ambulance backup services including vehicle maintenance and clerical staff, if he backed a plan from Bernard Cahill, deputy county fire officer for Surrey.



managed to hold a driving licence.

Closing this loophole, she suggested, would promote safety by taking potentially dangerous drivers off the road as well as saving money by uncovering those who were not as needy as they claimed to be.

But it was David Mills, a Scottish pharmacist, who won the hearts of the judges, with a plan to axe £500,000 off NHS costs.

Mr Mills called for the abolition of fee-exempt prescriptions, levying a 40p cost, and enforced substitution of generic drugs for branded medicine where suitable.



Companies that fail to invest must cut bills

# Water firms told to pass on savings

Nicholas Bammler  
Technology Editor

**O**FWAT director general Ian Byatt yesterday ordered water companies which failed to meet their investment promises to pass on any resulting savings to customers through lower bills.

Mr Byatt, the industry regulator, said many water companies were showing they could become more efficient and could improve services while reducing expenditure in real terms. But several companies had materially changed the timing of their capital spending programmes from those set out in the strategic business plans submitted to him in 1994.

He said those companies "should not take up their full price limit next April". This would force them to keep price rises below the level agreed in 1994.

"If they have delayed capital programmes, perhaps for reasons outside their control, such as delays in getting planning permission, they should at least share the interest gain with their customers," he said. "The customer pays less in the short term and the company may take up its full price limit at a later stage without customers paying

higher bills than they would otherwise have done."

Frank Dobson, Labour's environment spokesman, said Ofwat's report on the financial and capital investment of the water companies, showed that in 1995-96 the industry's profits rose to its highest level since privatisation in 1989, while capital investment fell to its lowest point.

"A number of companies — unnamed by Ofwat — have broken promises on investment," he said.

Janet Langdon, director of the Water Services Association, representing the 10 privatised water and sewerage companies, said that amounts invested in capital programmes would necessarily vary from year to year. The investment programmes in the first five years after privatisation had been completed on time and in full and companies had spent £1 billion more than originally planned.

"Many things influence the timing of investment," she said. "These include the development of new technical solutions, the acquisition of planning permissions, and the need to schedule work so as to cause minimum disruption and inconvenience to local communities."

Thames Water, Britain's largest water company, which completed construction of the

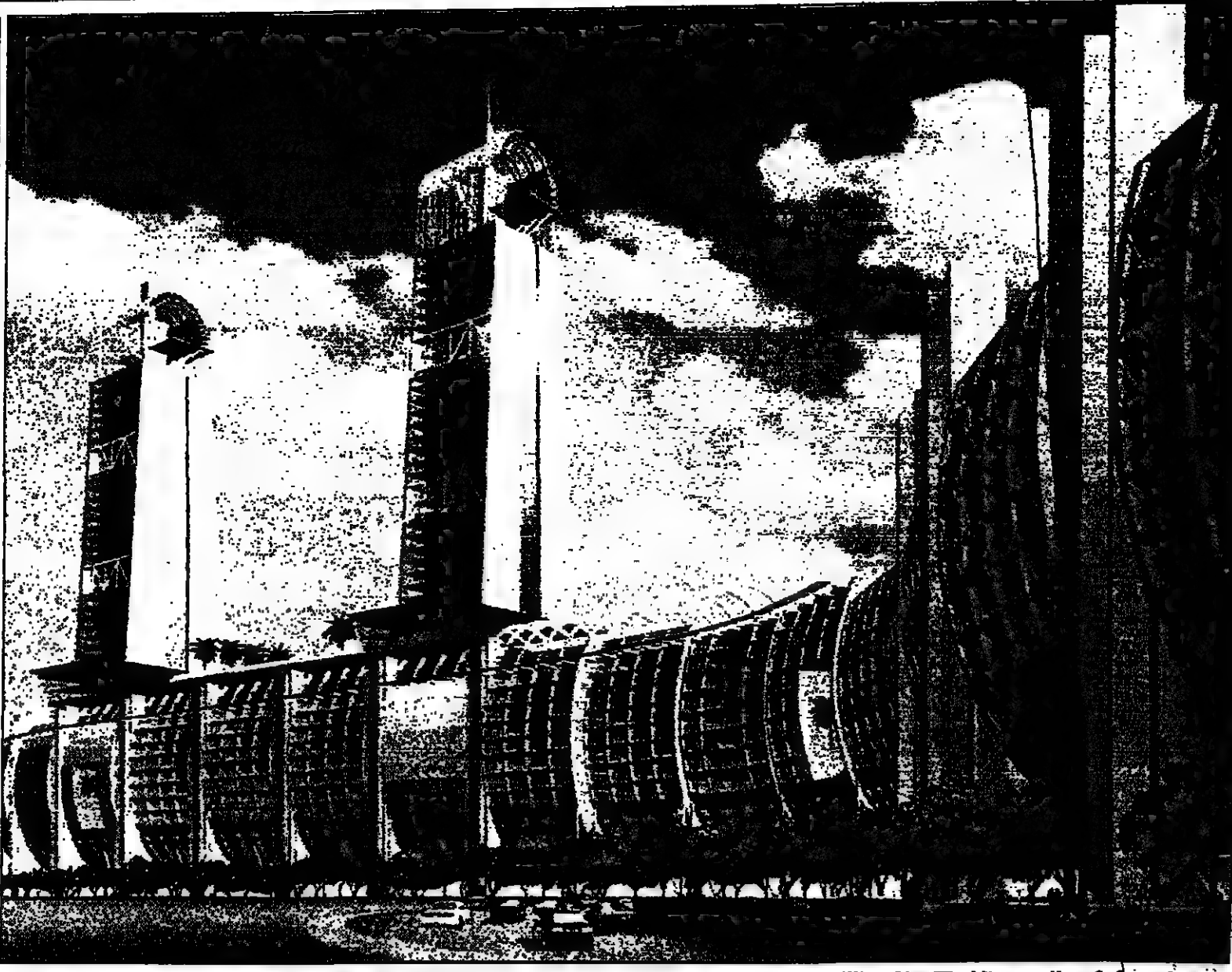
London ring main ahead of schedule, said that its customers preferred savings to be spent on improving services than on "knocking two or three pounds off the annual bill".

Thames Water opened the industry's first-half results season with a 6.4 per cent rise in pre-tax profits and a 22 per cent increase in the interim dividend.

Overall profits were hit by the £12 million cost of buying back convertible bonds. But profits of the regulated business rose 8 per cent to £181.8 million, while the non-regulated operations, shorn of the stand-alone design and construction businesses, turned a £3 million loss into a £9 million profit.

Chairman Sir Robert Clarke said the bulk of the dividend rise had been funded by the non-regulated businesses. Thames is to spend an extra £150 million over the next five years on capital projects, including work on leakage reduction and reduced sewer flooding, and an early start to its south-west Oxfordshire reservoir project.

The group's shares closed 10p up at 550p, with all the other big quoted water groups also posting gains, with the exception of South West Water and United Utilities.



Malaysia boasts the world's tallest building, Petronas Towers. Now it is to add the longest. The £1.3 billion Giga World's 1 1/4 miles of offices, theatres and malls, plus mono-rail, will rise on stilts above the Klang river as the heart of a 7-mile linear city under a deal signed with contractors yesterday.

## Clark shake-up after chairman dies suddenly

Patrick Donovan  
City Editor

**T**HE sudden death of Michael Cottrell, chairman of Matthew Clark, yesterday prompted the beleaguered drinks company to rush out the announcement of a senior management reshuffle aimed at showing the City that it is dealing with the problems which last month resulted in a major profits warning.

Mr Cottrell, 58, who is understood to have suffered a heart attack on Sunday night, will be replaced by non-executive director Michael Gardner until a suitable candidate for chairman has been found.

The company also seized the opportunity to announce that it is boosting its marketing operation of major cider brands and taking steps to deal with competition from "alcopops". It added that there are no plans to cut the dividend.

Since last month's warning that its market share was coming under threat, the company's shares more than halved in value. Yesterday, they firmed 17.5p to 317.5p.

As part of the restructuring, Matthew Clark is beefing up its marketing division with the creation of a new board position of marketing director. The sales force is being increased: there will be 40 new jobs.

The job of managing director, Branded Drinks Division, is being scrapped and this will result in Andrew Nash quitting the group. The company yesterday declined to speculate on how much compensation he will be paid.

The company will not be ready to present the findings of an exhaustive marketing strategy review until the publication of its interim results for the half-year to 31 October.

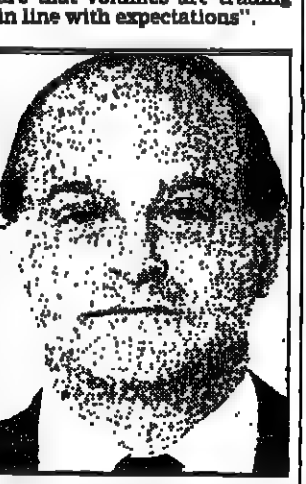
It said that the findings so far confirmed that its pre-

mium brands like Diamond White and Babydam are being squeezed by rival "alcopops". In a statement, Matthew Clark said: "For the first five months of this financial year, these brands were down 30 per cent in volume."

But, it insisted: "Trading in the cider category has now stabilised following the severe trading environment experienced during the summer. We expect the underlying growth within the cider market as a whole to resume."

It said that during June and July, draught cider generally had been down by 10 per cent. Across the whole of the summer, the group's draught cider volumes were down by 15 per cent having been marginally ahead of last year at the end of June. In the off trade, packaged cider market, although our mainstream brands are ahead of last year, the group has lost some market share in the price competitive own label areas."

The statement continued: "As always, Christmas trading will be a key factor in determining the group's full-year outcome. The early signs are that volumes are trading in line with expectations."



Michael Cottrell: Suffered heart attack

## Credit spree in high street

Richard Thomas

**F**EARS of a premature end to Britain's high street mini-boom eased yesterday with the release of figures showing strong consumer borrowing and buoyant demand for home loans.

Consumers raised their borrowing by £1,067 million in September, compared to £1,044 million in August and 16.2 per cent on September 1995 — the highest annual growth rate for more than three years, according to the Bank of England.

With the Governor, Eddie George, calling for higher interest rates to choke off possible inflation when he meets Chancellor Kenneth Clarke today, City analysts said consumers were still splashing out.

Dharshini David, UK economist at HSBC Markets, said: "With incomes going up, consumers may be snapping up high-street credit deals. They are generally feeling a bit more confident."

But Ms David pointed to a drop in borrowing on plastic to £149 million in September, half the previous month's level. She said the fall might reflect lower sales of clothing and shoes.

The Bank said mortgage approvals rose to 94,000 last month from 90,000 in August — and 72,000 in September last year. Market-watchers said the increase indicated that the property market was still on the way up.

Confirmation of a housing market recovery came when the Council of Mortgage Lenders said loan approvals remained steady at £5.9 billion last month.

## Maastricht maelstrom 2

# German deficit 'will fail single currency test'

Ian Traynor in Bonn

**G**ERMANY will fail to meet one of the main conditions for the common European currency next year, the country's leading economic think-tanks said yesterday.

In their annual analysis of German and global economic trends, the six institutes warned that government budget-cutting to meet single currency terms risked damaging the modest recovery.

France's hopes of qualification also suffered a blow yesterday when it emerged that plans to include a \$4.8 billion payment from France Telecom's pension fund in the 1997 budget had not yet been approved by the European Union. The payment is crucial to France getting its deficit below the Maastricht treaty ceiling of 3 per cent of GDP.

The institutes said Germany could fail the same test. Next year's economic performance will be used to decide who can join the common currency, the euro, when it is introduced for "wholesale" money in 1999.

Despite routine government claims that economic and monetary union will help cut Germany's unemployment of about 4 million, the report argued that the restrictive budgetary policy required by the single currency effort would hamper job creation.

The report came on the eve of today's emergency budget debate in the Bundestag. Theo Waigel, the finance minister, is expected to come under fire for sowing financial confusion and failing to present clear arithmetic on the crucial 1997 budget. For the past two weeks Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition has been split over tax rises and spending

cuts in the desperate drive to qualify for monetary union. "German financial policy is ruled by panic," the institutes said. "The proposals to plug the constantly recurring budget gaps are generally marked by hectic action. There is a danger of losing sight of medium-term concepts."

The panic was costing the government credibility, "nor can it be ruled out that resentment against EMU will increase".

Despite Germany's emergence from stagnation to growth of 1.5 per cent this year and 2.6 per cent next year, this year's budget deficit will be DM144 billion, 4 per cent of GDP and DM120 billion up on last year, the institutes said. That should fall next year by DM17 billion to DM127 billion. "The deficit will be 3.5 per cent of GDP. That means the criteria in the Maastricht treaty for the deficit and state debt will not be achieved in 1997."

## News in brief

### Rogue dealer case hits unit trust sales

**R**OGUE fund manager Peter Young's alleged deception at Morgan Grenfell took a heavy toll on unit trust sales last month, according to figures published yesterday. Net retail investment in unit trusts slumped by 40 per cent to £206 million in September, against £347 million in August, largely as result of heavy redemptions by nervous Morgan Grenfell investors. Hardest hit were European funds as private investors withdrew £90 million. The two investment funds managed by Mr Young specialised in European stocks.

The company confirmed that it had sold the £47 million stake in British Biotech held by two of Mr Young's funds, the M European Growth Trust and the MG European Capital Growth Fund. British Biotech, the UK's leading biotechnology stock, said it was pleased that the shares had gone to institutional shareholders who had been keen to buy stock for some time.

Richard Miles and Tony May

### Taxman's 'credit card bribes'

**I**NLAND Revenue "ghostbuster" Michael Alcock accepted bribes paid through his bank and credit-card accounts totalling more than £136,000 in the 1980s and early 1990s, the Old Bailey heard yesterday. The money was paid by the people he was supposed to be chasing for tax, the Crown said. Jurors heard how £87,806 had been paid off credit cards, and more than £79,000 was paid into bank accounts held at Lloyds and Barclays. John Black, prosecuting, told the court. Explanations Mr Alcock had given for the money were false, he said.

Mr Alcock, aged 47, from Colchester, Essex, has denied 13 charges of corruption between 1987 and 1992. Hisham Alwan, 56, from Knightsbridge, London, has denied three charges of bribing him, and David Shamoun, 66, from West Kensington, has denied an allegation of bribing him. — Dan Hutton

### EC work plea watered down

**E**UROPEAN Commission proposals for the World Trade Organisation to monitor third world working conditions have been watered down after opposition from Britain, Germany, Spain and Italy. Instead the Singapore WTO meeting in December will be asked to attach importance to the International Labour Organisation's efforts to promote core standards.

A British government statement said: "Britain is wholly opposed to the use of trade sanctions to enforce international labour standards. . . It does not accept that international standards are an appropriate subject for the WTO," but other EU member states see opposition as an attempt to undermine pursuit of higher living standards. — Stephen Bates

### Zeneca's seed growth

**Z**ENECA, Britain's third biggest drug group, said yesterday that its sales during the first nine months of the year had grown by 14 per cent to £4.1 billion. Zeneca, which has been the subject of persistent bid speculation, said the increase was mainly due to strong volume growth, though it warned that pricing pressures continued in Japan and some European markets. The biggest improvement was in seeds, where sales rose by 21 per cent to £117 million, but the biggest sales were in the core pharmaceuticals division, up 14 per cent at £1.9 billion. Its specialities division had notched up a 9 per cent improvement to £92 million, helped by strong sales of Quorn meat substitute led by its Stahl leather business. But Zeneca shares closed down 6p at 1713 1/2p, due mainly to profit-taking, according to analysts. — Ian King

## Maastricht maelstrom 1

# Price of the euro: £3.5bn

Sarah Ryle

**S**CRAPPING sterling in favour of the euro will cost traders and customers £3.5 billion, UK retailers warned yesterday. They attacked proposals drawn up in Brussels as "potentially unworkable".

The British Retail Consortium said the bill could be halved by adopting the "Big Bang" approach to decimalisation of February 15, 1971.

Instead of following the planned dual pricing for six months, customers should be able to tender pounds but only receive change in euros.

According to the BRC's report on the impact of monetary union, the other key problem will be the proposed date for the changeover to euro notes and coins in 2002.

"The January 1 start date is one of the worst possible times. It is right in the middle of the post-Christmas sales when the shops will be at their busiest. Mid-February would be much better as the shops are quieter," said Andrew Higginson, chairman of the BRC economic affairs committee.

The £3.5 billion price tag on conversion would consist of software to handle new and old currency simultaneously during the six-month changeover and then software to

handle dual euros: increased staff levels during transition and training; and dual labelling of old and new prices.

The BRC added that indirect costs not included in the final estimated bill could include a surge in retail demand before the change and a fall after, as the exchange rate which puts a 99p item at £1.20 would make customers feel goods were more expensive even if retailers did not pass on any transaction costs.

Traders called for maximum consultation and minimum legislation from government and warned a last-minute decision on monetary union could put them at a disadvantage.

**7.30am HEATHROW** Iberia: First to Madrid

# We've got more time for you

**7.55pm MADRID** Iberia: Last back to Heathrow

## IBERIA

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Racing

Ron Cox marks your card with 12 to follow for the National Hunt season

Stay one jump ahead with Sherwoods

THE Oliver Sherwood stable had a difficult time with injuries and various setbacks to their best horses last season...

ANTONIN: Only a six-year-old without completing the Racing Post/Ritz Club Chase double two seasons ago, Antonin has struggled since those heady days...

BILLYGOAT GRUFF: Made a smooth transition to chasing last season when he won the valuable Helmsdon Chase...

CHARMING GIRL: Stepped up from winning minor novice events to following home Tragic Hero at Ascot...

MAKE A STAND: Rattled off a hat-trick in novice hurdles in the second half of last season, clocking fast times...



Down to earth... Patrick McLoughlin parts company from The Knitter in the opening maiden hurdle at Cheltenham yesterday

PRINCEFUL: Despite looking far from fully wound up, this gelding by Electric lived up to his sire's name with a power-packed 12 lengths success...

SIERRA BAY: You have to go back to April 1995 to find Sierra Bay's only start — a three lengths NH Flat race second at Ascot...

WELCOME CALL: Winner of two point-to-points in Ireland, Welcome Call landed a gamble for his present connections in a 3m novice hurdle at Newbury...

HERBERT LODGE: A claim for the season's top novice hurdles prizes with an easy victory in the Cheltenham And Three Counties Race Club Maiden Hurdle yesterday...

more than two years ago with a lofty reputation, was running for the first time since fracturing a pelvis back in November 1994.

SPORTS NEWS 13

Sport in brief

Warwickshire ready to try again with Lara

WARWICKSHIRE are sounding out Brian Lara about a return to Edgbaston as the county's overseas cricketer for 1998. But, having been once bitten, Warwickshire are understandably shy about rekindling their relationship with the brilliant West Indies batsman...

Nemeth is under pressure

LASZLO NEMETH has been under and paged — bound by financial constraints, gagged by the English Basketball Association — and he will be lucky to escape with a European Championship win against Latvia at Leicester today...

Harding skates to the rescue

TONYA HARDING, the United States ice skater banned from the sport for life for her part in an assault on her main American rival Nancy Kerrigan before the 1994 Winter Olympics, gave her tarnished image a polish when she saved the life of an 81-year-old woman in Portland, Oregon...

\$2,000 for knee-jerk reaction

THE WIFE of the International Olympic Committee's vice-president Dick Pound has been fined \$2,000 for a run-in with an Atlanta policeman during this year's Olympic Games...

Law has a title unto himself

LESLIE LAW, who had to pull out of the Olympic individual eventing championship when his mount New Flavour developed a heel injury just before the start, earned some consolation for his Atlanta disappointment when he was named Britain's top event rider of the season...

Swiss to enter America's Cup

LAND-LOCKED Switzerland is to enter a boat in the America's Cup for the first time, writes Bob Fisher. A challenge is to be made from the Club Nautique de Morges on Lake Geneva by a syndicate led by Marc Pajot and Pierre Felhmann...

Yarmouth card with guide to the form

Racing card for Yarmouth with various race listings, horse names, and odds.

Cheltenham National Hunt programme

Racing card for Cheltenham National Hunt programme with various race listings, horse names, and odds.

Fontwell (N.H.) runners and riders

Racing card for Fontwell (N.H.) runners and riders with various race listings, horse names, and odds.

Decorated hero, trained by John Gosden, completed a four-timer when landing the Prix Phil Drake at Evry yesterday.

One of the horses that helped Frankie Dettori to his seventh timer at Ascot last month, Decorated Hero was sent off a 3-10 chance but gave his backers some anxious moments in the end he held on by a neck from Serviable with Verzen, trained by David Loder, finishing third.

Blinkered today for the first time: CHELTENHAM 4.30 Lady Foley, FONTWELL 1.30 Ragtime Song, 3.15 Clonatin Lady, 4.20 Solar Warrior.

Table with race results and odds for various events.

Results

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Table with race results and odds for various events.

RACELINE advertisement featuring a logo, phone number (0930 1681), and a grid of race results for Yarmouth, Cheltenham, and Fontwell.











